

# TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD.

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SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.

OCTOBER TERM, 1912/1913

No. ~~605~~ 289

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MARY R. PEABODY, SACO AND BIDDEFORD SAVINGS  
INSTITUTION, SAMUEL ELLERY JENNISON, AND THE  
PORTSMOUTH HARBOR LAND AND HOTEL COMPANY,  
APPELLANTS,

vs.

THE UNITED STATES.

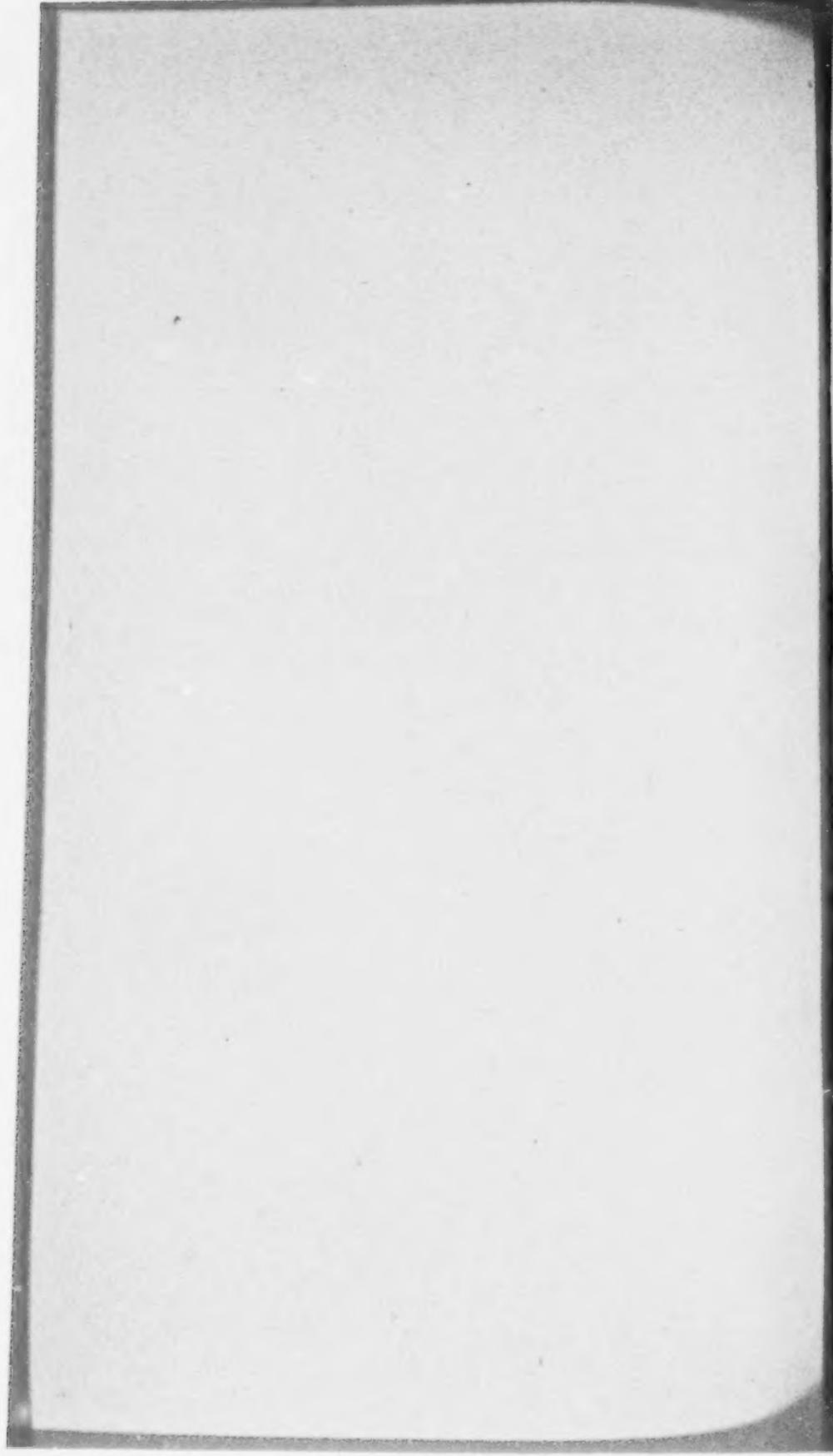
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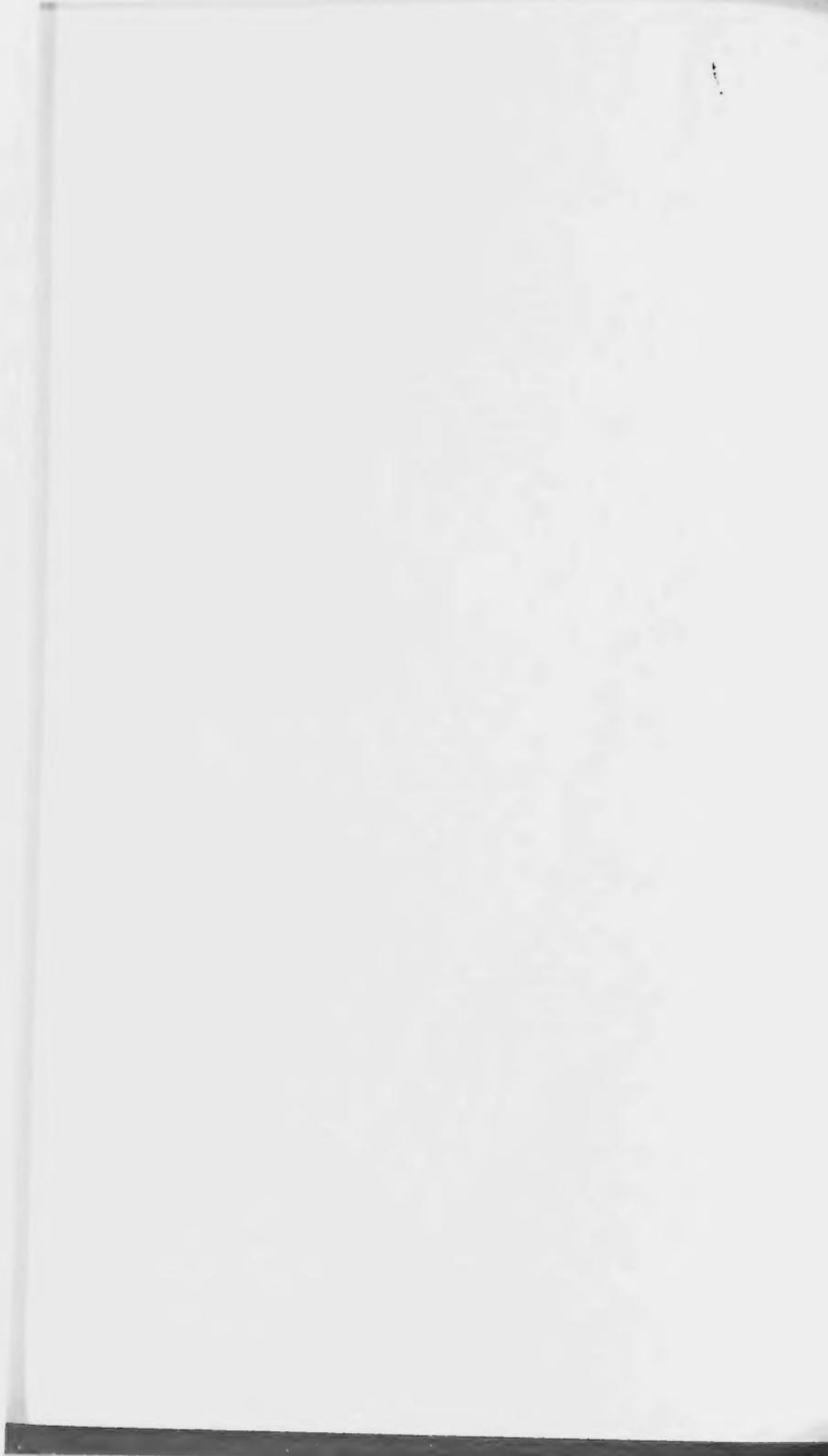
APPEAL FROM THE COURT OF CLAIMS.

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FILED JUNE 29, 1912.

(23,270)





I. *Original Petitions, etc.*

No. 27500.

MARY R. PEABODY  
VS.  
THE UNITED STATES.

No. 27501.

SACO AND BIDDEFORD SAVINGS INSTITUTION  
VS.  
THE UNITED STATES.

No. 27502.

SAMUEL ELLERY JENNISON  
VS.  
THE UNITED STATES.

No. 27503.

THE PORTSMOUTH HARBOR LAND AND HOMES COMPANY  
VS.  
THE UNITED STATES.

On March 2, 1905 the petitions were filed in the above-entitled causes.

On May 8, 1906 motions were made to consolidate the above causes which were allowed by the Court May 11, 1906.

On May 10, 1906 the defendants filed demurrers in each of said causes, which demurrers were argued and submitted on October 29, 1907.

On December 2, 1907 the opinion of the Court by Barney, J. was filed and it was ordered that the demurrer be sustained with leave to the claimant to amend the petition within sixty days.

Subsequently, to wit, on the dates hereinafter mentioned, the claimants filed amended petitions in Nos. 27,500, 27,502 and 27,503, but elected not to amend No. 27,501 and to stand on the original petition in said case.

Said petitions are as follows:

2. II. Amended Petition in *Mary R. Peabody*. Filed Dec. 20,  
1907.

In the Court of Claims, December Term, 1907.

No. 27500.

MARY R. PEABODY  
vs.  
UNITED STATES.

*Amended Petition.*

Comes the plaintiff, and after leave obtained, amends her petition filed March 2nd, 1905, as follows:

Strike out after the title of the cause all of paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, and insert instead the following:

1. That she is a citizen of the United States and a resident of Cambridge in the County of Middlesex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and a single woman.

2. That she now has, and from the time of the taking by the United States of her property aforesaid set forth, has had a just claim against the United States for the value of certain real estate, property, rights, privileges and easements appurtenant thereto, taken by the United States for public use, for the purpose of the erection, instalment and use of a certain gun battery at Gerrish Island at Kittery Point in the State of Maine, known as Fort Foster, for which she has received no compensation from the United States.

3. Your petitioner further says, that on the 30th day of December in the year 1897, she became and now is, the owner of certain real estate, together with the rights, property, privileges and easements thereto belonging, situated in said Gerrish Island, by virtue of a certain deed of mortgage bearing date the 30th day of December, 1897,

from one S. Ellery Jenison, and one Mary M. Jenison, 3. his wife, which said deed of mortgage was duly signed, sealed, acknowledged, delivered and recorded in the Registry of Deeds for the County of York and State of Maine, on the 31st day of December, 1897, in Book 488, p. 180, to which deed and its record reference is made for the source of her title to the land and said rights, property, privileges and easements, appurtenant thereto. Said mortgage has never been foreclosed and is still in full force and effect. The mortgage debt for which said deed was given as security has never been paid. Said mortgage debt on February 20, 1905, was \$12,000, which sum is still due, together with interest at 5 per centum per annum. A copy of said mortgage deed is found in Exhibit A in the original petition in this suit, on pp. 5, 6 and 7, and reference is hereby made thereto.

4. And the plaintiff further avers, that on the land conveyed to her as aforesaid, there were at the time of said conveyance and now are, ten different edifices, consisting of a hotel called the Pooshontas and outbuildings connected therewith, a water tower, springs, ice

houses, three cottages, engine house, stables, barns and sheds, and a pier.

And the plaintiff further alleges, that the said Hotel Pocahontas was at the time of the alleged taking, a large frame structure, convenient for and capable of accommodating one hundred and fifty guests, erected for the purpose of summer residence and the accommodation of tourists; and there was connected therewith water works on the premises hereinbefore described; livery stables and a pier for the use of steamboats, a billiard hall and other accessories of a summer hotel, all of which were of very great value.

The cottages aforesaid were used for renting and were tributary to the business of said Hotel Pocahontas. Said hotel and cottages were erected at an expense of more than \$60,000. The water tower aforesaid and pipes, reservoirs and wells, and four separate pumping stations furnish the supply for the hotel and buildings therewith, were erected at an expense of \$15,000, and \$15,000, and said land and buildings were of the value of \$250,000. Said spring of water was of great value.

5. And your petitioner further avers, that said land is fast land and is not subject to any lawful rights of the United States above high water mark. Said land is of great value, to wit, of the value of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. And that at the date of the taking by the United States, as alleged herein, said lands and buildings, property and the rights, privileges and easements therein, were the private property of your petitioner and were subject to no right, title or interest of the United States, and no right, title or interest in said fast lands, and no property rights, privileges or easements have ever been claimed by the United States antagonistic to that of your petitioner, and said United States has never hitherto denied the title of your petitioner to said lands, buildings, property, rights, privileges and easements.

And your petitioner further avers, that the Pocahontas Hotel and all the other structures hereinbefore described, were erected and in use by her and her grantors prior to the alleged taking by the United States of the lands, privileges, property and easements.

6. And your petitioner further avers, that in the year 1900, the United States erected at a distance of about 1,000 feet in the rear of said Pocahontas Hotel, and the other buildings and structures hereinbefore mentioned, a certain structure known as Fort Foster, being a gun battery and installed therein a battery of three ten-inch disappearing guns, said Fort Foster being a public work of the United States; and since said year 1900, the United States has continuously maintained said Fort Foster and does now maintain the same.

And your petitioner further avers, that said Fort Foster was erected at a great expense and was intended to be and is a permanent structure. And in addition to said battery of ten-inch disappearing guns, the United States erected and still maintains in said Fort Foster a certain other battery of guns of a smaller caliber, known as the water battery.

7. And your petitioner further avers, that it was and is a necessary part of the project of the erection and use of said Fort Foster

and the installation of said ten-inch disappearing guns, that the zone of fire of the same should include and does include all said land of your petitioner and all said Pocahontas Hotel and the other structures hereinbefore described. And said fort cannot be used for the purpose for which it was erected without the use by the United States of said lands, property, buildings, rights, privileges and easements appurtenant thereto.

8. And your petitioner further avers, that a necessary part of the scheme of building said Fort Foster and the installation of said ten-inch disappearing guns, was and is, that said fort should be occupied by officers and soldiers of the United States and that said guns should be fired from time to time in time of peace, for calibration and preliminary and record practice; and should be fired from time to time in time of peace and at all times, for practice, in order that the same should be ready at any time and all times for the purpose for which said fort was erected; and said practice is necessary to enable said officers and soldiers to acquaint themselves with the mechanism and use of said guns and to acquire a proficiency in aiming and firing said guns by firing at targets or other objectives off the coast of said Gerrish Island, where an enemy's vessel might come for the purpose of destroying or injuring the other forts of the United States, at the mouth of the said Piscataqua River, the Navy Yard of the United States at Kittery, Maine, the City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and the bridge across said Piscataqua River, connecting the States of New Hampshire and Maine, and property of citizens of the United States.

9. And your petitioner further avers, that the trajectory of shots fired from said guns at objectives, ranging from 1,500 to 10,000 yards, off the coast of said Gerrish Island, within the radius of fire of said guns in time of peace, is necessarily projected and intended by said United States in the building of said Fort Foster and the installation of said guns, includes and was intended to include, said Pocahontas Hotel and all of the buildings hereinbefore mentioned, or that might be erected on the premises.

10. And your petitioner further avers, that the project, intention and plan of building said Fort Foster and the installation of said guns was intended and does intend, the use of the guns in time of peace, at ranges of from 1,500 yards to 10,000 yards, and that the sphere of concussion of said guns, includes and was intended to include the said Pocahontas Hotel and other buildings hereinbefore mentioned, or that might be erected.

11. And your petitioner further avers, that the firing of shot from said ten-inch guns over and across the premises of your petitioner and the concussion of the same for practice or other purposes, in time of peace and all times, interferes and circumscribes the lawful use by your petitioner of said Pocahontas Hotel and other buildings hereinbefore mentioned, so that the same are practically destroyed and their value is materially impaired, and at no reasonable expense can she prevent this injury.

12. And your petitioner further avers, that in the year 1900 continuously, and now continuously, the United States in the exercise

of its rights of eminent domain under the Constitution of the United States and by authority of acts of Congress duly empowering its officers and agents thereto, took said lands, property, rights, privileges and easements, and the right, privilege and easement to use

in time of peace and at all times, to fire said ten-inch guns at any radius and at any elevation off the coast of said Gerrish

Island, with concession to said Hotel Pocahontas and any other structure hereinbefore mentioned, for practice and other purposes, which said firing and concession was a part of the scheme of building said Fort Foster and the installation of said ten-inch guns as herein set forth, and to continue such firing and concessions, and to practically destroy and materially impair the value of the same, and to circumfer and interfere with the exclusive use by the plaintiff of her said land, rights, property, privileges and easement; and your petitioner further avers that such firing and such concession does produce the damage and injury aforesaid.

13. And your petitioner further avers, that in pursuance of the scheme involved in the taking as set forth in the preceding paragraph, the United States by its officers and soldiers on or about the 22nd day of June, 1902, and in the forenoon of said day, fired one of said ten-inch guns with shot across the land of said plaintiff at a target off the coast of said Gerrish Island, and in the afternoon of said day repeated the same act; and on or about September 25th of the same year, again repeated the same act; all of said firings being in time of peace; and said firings caused the foundation walls of said Hotel Pocahontas to bulge and a large number of windows of said hotel and other structures to break, and destroyed property inside said hotel, and caused fright to guests of said hotel.

And your petitioner further avers, that on many occasions since the alleged taking, and hitherto, the said officers and soldiers, have manipulated said ten-inch guns by raising the same and aiming at the said Pocahontas Hotel and the other buildings hereinbefore mentioned, as if to fire the same, thus causing apprehension to the owners of said property because having received no notice of the proposed action, they assumed that the said officers and soldiers were about to fire said guns with shot, as they had, as hereinbefore

mentioned, and your petitioner further avers that the concession of firing said guns with blank cartridges would produce the same damage as described in the preceding paragraph.

And said plaintiff further avers, that the repetition of said firing of said guns in any and all directions, would make permanent the damage by concession on said plaintiff's property and thereby permanently destroy its use, in time of peace and at all times.

14. And your petitioner further avers, that at the time of the firing said guns as set forth in the last paragraph, the United States had fully completed the erection of said ten-inch guns, with the exception of any other guns which it might thereafter determine to install in said Fort Foster.

15. And your petitioner further avers, that the reasonable compensation to her by the act of taking said lands, property, rights, privileges and easements, is four hundred thousand dollars.

16. And your petitioner further avers, that she is the owner of the whole claim here mentioned and described, and that she has made no assignment or transfer of the same or any interest therein and that she has at all times borne true allegiance to the United States and in no way aided or given encouragement to rebellion against the Government of the United States, and that she is justly entitled to recover from the United States the amount here claimed, after allowing all just credits.

17. Wherefore, your said petitioner prays that this Honorable Court will find that there is due to said petitioner the sum of four hundred thousand dollars, together with such other and further order and findings of law and fact as may in the premises be warranted by and in conformity with law.

COTTON & WHITE,  
*Attorneys for Plaintiff.*

9. Personally appeared before me, John B. Cotton, one of the attorneys for the claimant and makes oath that the facts herein stated are true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

JOHN B. COTTON.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 20th day of December, 1907.

[SEAL.]

JOHN RANDOLPH,  
*Asst Clerk Court of Claims.*

\* \* \* \* \*

#### EXHIBIT "V" OR ORIGINAL PETITION.

Know all men by these Presents, That I, Frederick M. Sise, of Portsmouth, in the County of Rockingham and State of New Hampshire, in consideration of one dollar paid by Samuel Ellery Jennison, of Kittery and County of York, Maine, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby bargain, sell and convey, remise, release and forever quitclaim unto the said Samuel Ellery Jennison, his heirs and assigns, all that tract or parcel of land lying in the south westerly part of Gerrish Island, in said town of Kittery, known as the "Seaward Farm," containing about two hundred acres, be the same more or less, with all the buildings and structures thereon.

Also, a certain lot of salt marsh in the easterly part of said Gerrish Island, containing about six acres;

Being the same premises described in a deed to me, of the same date herewith and herewith to be recorded, from Mary M. Jennison and the said Samuel; excepting out of said premises the same lots or parcels in said deed mentioned as having been conveyed therefrom. Together with all rights of way, easements and privileges to the premises belonging, and subject to all reservations, rights, easements and privileges, and to the mortgages in said deed to me referred to.

To have and to hold the above released premises, with all  
10. the privileges and appurtenances to the same belonging, to  
the said Samuel Ellery Jennison, his heirs and assigns, to  
his and their use and behoof forever.

In witness whereof I, the said Frederick M. Sise, have hereunto set my hand and seal this thirty-first day of July, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three.

FREDERICK M. SISE. [SEAL.]

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of us,

CALVIN PAGE.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE,

*Rockingham, ss:*

JULY 31, 1893.

Then personally appeared the above named Frederick M. Sise and acknowledged the above instrument to be his free act and deed. Before me,

CALVIN PAGE,  
*Justice of the Peace.*

Recorded according to the original received August 7, 1893, at  
5 h. 15 m. P. M.

Attest:

JUSTIN M. LEAVITT, *Register.*

STATE OF MAINE,

*York, ss:*

REGISTRY OF DEEDS.

A true copy as recorded in Book 158, page 316.

Attest:

HOWARD BRACKETT, *Register.*

The petitions in 27,501, and 27,503, are substantially in the same words and are omitted by agreement of counsel.

#### CLAIMANTS' EXHIBIT B.

Know all men by these presents, That I, Samuel Jennison, of the City of Boston, in the County of Suffolk and Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in consideration of one dollar and other good and valuable considerations, paid by Samuel Ellery Jennison, of said Boston, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, do hereby release, release, bargain, sell and convey, and forever quitclaim unto the said Samuel Ellery Jennison, his heirs and assigns, all the following described premises with *heirs and assigns forever*, all my right, title and interest in and to the same, namely, all that tract and parcel and parcels of land known as the "Seaward Farm" on Gerrish's Island in the town of Kittery in the County of York and State of Maine, containing two hundred acres, more or less, with all the buildings, erections and improvements thereon; excepting and reserving a certain parcel or lot known as the "Family Burying

Ground," as in the deed to me, her mother referred to, from Chas Burnham. Also a lot of salt marsh near Sea Point, on the outer side of said Gerrish's Island, containing about six acres, together with all the right, title and interest claim and estate of every nature I may have in and to any other parcel or parcels of land on said Gerrish's Island, and in and to the same beaches, flats, bays and inlets adjacent, connected with and belonging to any of the premises, and together with all rights of way, easements, privileges and appurtenances thereto belonging, incident in anywise pertaining. Meaning and intending hereby to convey all the same premises which were conveyed to me by the deed of Chaote Burnham dated May 5, A. D. 1883, and recorded in the Registry of Deeds, for said County of York, in Book 392, page 186; the deed of Allan W. Burnham, Guardian, dated May 12, 1887, recorded in said Registry in Book 392, page 219, and of Allan W. Burnham and wife, dated May 22, 1887, recorded in Book 392, page 211, in said Registry, recd all which deeds and records referring as to land for more particular description of the premises. The issues are hereby conveyed subject to a mortgage made by the grantee herein to said Chaote Burnham, dated May 5, 1883, which mortgage and the indebtedness thereon remaining unpaid the grantees last agrees to assume and pay.

To have and to hold the same together with all the fixtures and appurtenances thereto belonging, to the said Samuel Ellery Johnson, his heirs and assigns, forever.

And I do covenant with the said Samuel Ellery Johnson, his heirs and assigns, that I will warrant and forever defend the premises to him, the said Samuel Ellery Johnson, his heirs and assigns, forever against the lawful claims and demands of all persons claiming by, through or under me.

In witness whereof I, the said Samuel Johnson, being unlettered, have hereunto set my hand and seal, this eighth day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four.

SAMUEL JOHNSON. [Signature]

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of

CHAS. HALL ADAMS,

State of Massachusetts,

County of Suffolk,

On this ninth day of February, A. D. eighteen hundred and eighty-four, before me, Chas. Hall Adams, Commissioner in the State of Maine residing in the State of Massachusetts, personally came the witness named Samuel Johnson, and acknowledged me within his signature to be his true, valid and deed. To witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at my office, No 1 Court Street, in the City of Boston, in the County of Suffolk, aforesaid, the day and year in this certificate above written.

H. S. J.

CHAS. HALL ADAMS,

Commissioner for Maine.

Recorded according to the original received March 17, 1884, at  
2 h. 45 m. P. M.  
A. f. 687

JUSTIN M. LEAVITT, Register.

STATE OF MAINE,

YORK,  
March 30,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, March 30, 1909,

A (the copy as recorded in Book 306, page 235).

Attest,

HOWARD BRACKETT, Register.

12 14. *Original Petition. Filed March 2, 1905.*

In the Court of Claims, March, 1905.

No. 27501.

SACRED BIDDEFORD SAVINGS INSTITUTION

v.

THE UNITED STATES.

To the Honorable the Court of Claims:

The Sacred Biddeford Savings Institution, a corporation, alleges:

1. That it is a corporation duly established by law in Sacre in the County of York and State of Maine, where it has its principal place of business. That it is a citizen of the United States.

2. That it now has and from the time of the alleged taking by the United States of its property aforesaid set forth, it has had no claim against the United States for the value of certain land or structures or so much taken by the United States for public use, namely, for the purpose of the erection and the installment of a battery in Gorham Island in Kittery in the County of York in State of Maine, for which it has received no compensation from the United States.

3. Your petitioner further says, that on the 22nd day of January in the year 1900 it became the owner of certain real estate situated on Gorham Island in the said County of York and State of Maine, by virtue of a certificate of mortgage bearing date the said 22nd of January, 1900, from one Samuel E. Jenison, which said deed of mortgage was duly signed, sealed and delivered and is recorded in the Registry of Deeds for said York County on February 7, 1900, in book 500, page 331, to which said deed and its record reference is hereby made for the source of its title to the lands of record in the next paragraph thereof. A copy of said Deed is marked Exhibit "A" and made a part of this petition. Said mortgage has never been foreclosed and is still in full force and effect.

4. Said tract of land is more particularly described and bounded as follows:

The farm on Gerrish Island in Kittery, York County, Maine known as the "Seaward Farm" containing one hundred and fifty-five acres, more or less, and bounded thus:

Beginning at an iron bolt set in stone at the seashore on the easterly line of land of G. H. Higbee, thence running northerly by said Higbee's land to the highway, thence from the northerly line of said way indicated by same posts northerly and parallel with the westerly boundary of said Higbee's land to the "Government Reservation", thence easterly by said reservation and lands of Joshua E. McClure, heirs of Edward F. Sofford, Jos. R. Warner, heirs of E. C. Stonney, Wm. C. Williams, and heirs of William H. Goodwin, thence extending southerly 1/8 mile of said Goodwin heirs to the Atlantic Ocean, thence extending westerly by said ocean to the point of beginning, excepting therefrom lots sold to H. N. Van Dyke, Susanna Willard et al., and Oliver M. Flagg, also the river way extending through the same.

Said tract of land contains over one hundred and seven acres and is laid out in building lots suitable for the erection of buildings and cottages for persons desiring houses at the seashore, and is accessible by railroads and causeways, and contains six houses, barns, sheds, pumping station, etc. Said lot of land can be connected with suitable water-supply by the works of the Peconic Harbor Land & Hotel Company, which are located on an acre of land with the hotel building known as the Hotel Peconic situated on land next immediately west of the lands described previously. Said tract is laid out into outside building lots with streets and boundaries on undisturbed shore of the water of the Atlantic.

14. Ocean and the mouth of the Piscataqua River, and the place is of great value, to wit, the sum of \$250,000.

5. And your petitioner further shows that for several years continuously from the year 1860 to the present time, the United States in the exercise of its power of eminent domain and under the Constitution of the United States and of authority of Act of Congress, duly empowering its officers and agents thereto, took and held and continuously since has been, existing buildings and fortifications on land westerly and contiguous to the land on which is situated said Peconic Harbor, as thereon an battery known as Fort Foster, in which it has installed three iron such disappearing guns, so-called, which said battery for some years past had been removed in the rear of said Peconic Harbor, about one thousand feet therefrom.

6. And your petitioner further shows that it was necessary and a part of the project of the creation and continuing of said Fort Foster and the guns aforesaid and on the protection of the mouth of the Piscataqua River from invasion by a foreign enemy in time of war, that the zone of fire of said guns be installed, and which may be hereafter installed, in furtherance of the scheme of building said Fort Foster should include the entire land of your petitioner aforesaid, and it avers that the range of fire of said guns so installed at Fort Foster does in fact cover the entire property of your petitioner.

7. And your petitioner further shows that the acts of the United

States as aforesaid have been done and are being done lawfully by the officers and agents of the United States under the authority of the United States in the exercise of its powers of eminent domain and regulation of commerce under the Constitution of the United States and the laws of Congress for the public purpose of the defense of the mouth of the Piscataqua River and of the docks of the United States erected on said River above Fort Foster, and of the City of Portsmouth, situated above Fort Foster, and navy yard of the United States situated in said Kittery.

15. 8. And your petitioner further avers that in the year 1802 the officers and agents of the United States having lawful charge of said Fort Foster and for the purpose of necessary practice in the use of said guns installed in said Fort first fired the same and that the zone of said fire covered the entire premises of your petitioner as hereinbefore set forth, so that the same has become of little or no value.

9. That said petitioner is the owner of the claim herein mentioned and described, that no assignment or transfer of said claim or any part thereof or interest therein has been made to any person whatever, and that said claimant has at all times borne true allegiance to the United States Government, and in no way aided or abetted or given encouragement to rebellion against the Government of the United States, and that said claimant is justly entitled to have judgment for and recover from the United States the amount herein claimed, after allowing all just credits and set offs.

Wherefore your petitioner prays that this honorable court will find that there is due to said claimant the sum of \$250,000, together with such other and further order and findings of law and fact as may in the premises be warranted by and in conformity with law.

Dated this 21st day of February, A. D. 1905.

(Signed)

SACO & BIDDEFORD SAVINGS  
INSTITUTION, *Charter*,  
By ENOCH LOWELL, *President*.

COTTON & WHITE, *Attorneys.*

16. Know all men by these presents, that Samuel Ellery Jones, of Kittery, in the County of York and State of Maine, in consideration of twenty-two thousand dollars, paid by the said Biddeford Savings Institution, a corporation established by law at Sac, in the County of York and State of Maine, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and convey unto the said Sac and Biddeford Savings Institution its successors and assigns the farm on Gorish Island in Kittery, York County, Maine, known as the "Seaward Farm" containing one hundred and fifty-five acres, more or less, and bounded thus:

Beginning at an iron bolt set in stone at the sea shore on the easterly line of the land of G. H. Higbee, thence running north-easterly to said Higbee's land to the highway, thence from the north-easterly line of said way (indicated by stone posts northerly and parallel with the westerly boundary of said Higbee's land) to the "Government Reservation", thence easterly by said reservation and lands

of Joshua E. McClure, heirs of Edward F. Safford, Jos. B. Warner, heirs of E. C. Spinney, Wm. C. Williams, and heirs of Wm. H. Goodwin; thence extending southerly by land of said Goodwin; heirs to the Atlantic Ocean; thence extending westerly by said Ocean to the point of beginning, excepting therefrom lots sold to H. N. Van Dyke, Susanna Willard, et al., and Oliver M. Flagg; also the town way extending through the same.

To have and to hold the aforesigned and bargained premises, with all the privileges and appurtenances thereof, to the said Sun & Biddeford Savings Institution, its successors and assigns, their heirs and assigns forever, to their use and behoof forever. And I, do covenant with the said grantee, its successors and assigns, that I am lawfully seized in fee of the premises, that they are free from all incumbrances; that I have good right to sell and convey the same to the said Grantee to hold as aforesaid, and that I and my heirs shall *abid* will warrant and defend the same to the said grantee, its successors and assigns forever, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons.

17. Provided nevertheless, That if the said Grantee, his executors or administrators, shall pay to the said Grantee, its successors or assigns the sum of Twenty-two thousand dollars in one year from the date hereof, with interest on said sum at the rate of six per centum per annum, payable semi-annually till the rate mentioned herein shall be fully paid, and shall pay off taxes and other assessments laid upon said property, within one year after date of assessment thereof, and shall at all times keep said buildings insured, payable to said grantee, to the extent of the claim hereby secured, and shall repay to said grantee all sums it may pay for taxes, insurance, repairs and improvements upon said buildings, and all expenses, if any are incurred, of foreclosure of this mortgage, with interest on said sums as aforesaid, then this deed is also to contain note bearing even date with those amounts, given by said grantor, Samuel Elfrey Jennison, to the said Grantee, in consideration of sum of \$22,000 and interest at the time above, and shall both be and otherwise shall remain in full force.

And the said mortgagor and mortgagess hereby covenants in year as the time in which this instrument, and the right of holding the premises, shall be forever foreclosed, he says of the mode prescribed by statute for the foreclosure of mortgages of real estate.

In witness whereof, I, the said Grantee, and Samuel Elfrey Jennison, Mary M. Jennison, wife of the said Samuel Elfrey Jennison, in testimony of her relinquishment of the right of dower, and all other rights, by descent or otherwise, to the above described premises, have hereunto set our hands and seals this twenty-second day of January, in the year of our Lord One thousand Nine Hundred.

SAMUEL ELLERY JENNISON, *[Signature]*  
MARY M. JENNISON, *[Signature]*

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of  
MOSES A. SAFFORD.

STATE OF MAINE, ss:

JANUARY 22, 1900.

Personally appeared the above named Samuel Ellery Dennison and acknowledged the above instrument to be his free act and deed.  
Before me,

(Seal.)

MOSES A. SAFFORD,

*Notary Public.*

Registry of Deeds, Read Feb'y 7, 1900, at 9 A. M., in, and  
recorded in Book 701, page 331.

Attest,

JUSTIN M. LEAVITT, Register.

STATE OF MAINE,

*County of York, ss.*

SAF'D. MT., Feb'y 21, 1905.

Joseph Lowell being duly sworn deposes and says that he is the President of said Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution, and that he is and said petition and knows the contents thereof, and that the same is true of his own knowledge except as respects those parts of the same information and belief, and as to those matters he verily believes the same to be true, and that he is lawfully authorized to sign the petition aforesaid.

Signed and sworn to before me the 21st day of February, A. D. 1905.

(Seal.)

MELVILLE H. KELLY,

*Notary Public.*

(Signature attached of Clerk of Court as a Notary.)

STATE OF MAINE,

*Office of the Secretary,*

I, ——————, Secretary of the State of Maine and Keeper of the Great Seal, do hereby certify that —————— was on the — day of ——————, A.D. 1905, appointed and commissioned Agent public in said State to be date of said commission until ——————. With authority model laws of the State to administer oaths, take acknowledgments, depositions, and other recognizances and attestations as such full power and credit are given and ought to be given to any Agent. I further certify that the foregoing appointment is by due form of the proper officer and I certify before the signature of the Agent —————— thereon be genuine.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said State, this — day of —————— A. D. 1905.

(Seal.)

STATE OF MAINE,

I hereby certify that Melville H. Kelly, Esquire, whose name is written upon the paper hereto annexed, and whose signature thereto

I believe to be true and genuine, was on the date thereof, a Notary Public within and for the County of York, duly commissioned and qualified, and that all his official acts as such are entitled to full faith and credit.

In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the State at Augusta, this twenty-second day of February, 1907.

[Seal.]

A. T. BROWN,

*Deputy Secretary of State*

200 IV. *Amended Petition* — Filed January 16, 1908

In the Court of Claims, December Term, 1907.

No. 27502

SAMUEL ELLIOT JENNISON

vs.

THE UNITED STATES.

*Amended Petition*

Comes the plaintiff and petitioner, having obtained an amendment petitioned March 3, 1907, as follows:

Strike out after the title of the cause all of paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 and insert the following:

1. That he is a citizen of the United States and a resident of Gerrish Island, Kittery Point, in the County of York, and the State of Maine.

2. That he now has and from the time of the taking by the United States of his property, as hereinafter set forth, has had a just claim against the United States for the value of certain real estate, property, rights, privileges and easements, appurtenant thereto taken by the United States for public use, for the purpose of the erection, installment and use of a certain gun battery at Gerrish Island at Kittery Point in the State of Maine known as Fort Foster, for which he has received no compensation from the United States.

3. Your petitioner further says that on the 1st day of July in the year 1893 he became and now is the owner of certain real estate together with the rights, property, privileges and easements thereto belonging situated in Gerrish Island, in town 21, county of a certain deed bearing date said 1st day of July, 1893 from one Fred M. Sise, which said deed was duly signed, sealed and delivered and recorded in the Registry of Deeds for said County of York, in Book No. 478 p. 316, in which said deed and as record reference is hereby made for the title of his title to the land and said rights, property, privileges and easements, appurtenant thereto. A copy of said deed is printed Exhibit A in the original petition of this suit and reference is hereby made thereto. \* \* \*

4. And the plaintiff further avers that on the land conveyed in

him as aforesaid, there were at the time of said conveyance and now are, ten different edifices, consisting of a hotel called the Pocahontas, and outbuildings connected therewith, a water tower, springs, ice houses, three cottages, engine house, stables, barns and sheds, and a pier.

And the plaintiff further alleges, that the said Hotel Pocahontas was at the time of the alleged taking, a large frame structure, convenient for and capable of accommodating one hundred and fifty guests, erected for the purpose of summer residence and the accommodation of tourists; and there was connected therewith water works on the premises hereinbefore described, five stables and a pier for the use of steamboats, a billiard hall and other accessories of a summer hotel, all of which were of very great value.

The cottages aforesaid were used for renting and were tributary to the business of said Hotel Pocahontas. Said hotel and cottages were erected at an expense of more than \$30,000.

The water tower aforesaid and pipes, reservoirs and wells, and four separate pumping stations, furnish the supply for the hotel and buildings connected therewith, were erected at an expense of \$15,000, and said land and buildings were of the value of \$250,000. Said spring of water was of great value.

5. And your petitioner further avers, that said land is not land and is not subject to any lawful rights of the United States above high water mark. Said land is of great value, to wit, of the value of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars. And that in the date of the taking by the United States, as alleged herein, said lands and buildings, property and the rights, privileges, and easements therein were the private property of your petitioner and were subject to no right, title or interest of the United States, and no right, title or interest in said fast lands, and no property, rights, privileges or easements, have ever been claimed by the United States antagonistic to that of your petitioner; and said United States has never hitherto denied the title of your petitioner to said lands, buildings, property, rights, privileges and easements.

And your petitioner further avers, that the Pocahontas Hotel and all the other structures hereinbefore described, were erected and in use by him and his grantors prior to the alleged taking by the United States of the lands, privileges, property and easements.

6. And your petitioner further avers, that in the year 1890, the United States erected at a distance of about 1,000 feet in the rear of said Pocahontas Hotel, and the other buildings and structures hereinbefore mentioned, a certain structure known as Fort Foster, being a gun factory, and installed therein a battery of three ten-inch disappearing guns, said Fort Foster being a public work of the United States, and since said year 1890, the United States has continuously maintained said Fort Foster, and does so maintain the same.

7. And your petitioner avers that said Fort Foster was erected at a great expense and was intended to be and is a permanent structure. And in addition to said battery of ten-inch disappearing guns, the United States erected and still maintains in said Fort Foster, a certain other battery of guns of a smaller calibre, known as the water battery.

bension to him by the act of taking said lands, property, rights, privileges and easements, is Four Hundred thousand dollars.

16. And your petitioner further avers that he is the owner of the whole claim herein mentioned and described, and that he has made no assignment or transfer of the same or any interest therein and that he has at all times borne true allegiance to the United States and in no way aided or given encouragement to rebellion against the Government of the United States and that he is justly entitled to recover from the United States, the amount herein claimed, after 27 allowing all just credits.

17. Wherefore your petitioner prays, that this Honorable Court will find that there is due to said petitioner the sum of Four hundred thousand dollars, together with such other and further order and findings of law and fact as may in the premises be warranted by and in conformity with law.

(Signed)

COTTON & WHITE,

*Attorneys for Plaintiff.*

Personally appeared John B. Cotton, one of the attorneys who signed the above written petition, and made oath that the facts set forth therein are true according to his knowledge and belief.

(Signed)

JOHN B. COTTON.

JANUARY 16, 1908.

Signed and sworn to before me the day and year above written.

[SEAL.]

JOHN RANDOLPH,  
*Asst. Clerk Court of Claims.*

In the Court of Claims, December Term, 1907.

No. 27503.

THE PORTSMOUTH HARBOR LAND AND HOME COMPANY

VS.  
THE UNITED STATES.

*Amended Petition.*

Comes the plaintiff and after leave obtained, amends its petition filed March 3rd, 1907, as follows:

Strike out after the title of the cause all of paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 and insert therefor the following:

1. That it is a corporation duly established under the laws of the State of Maine and having its principal place of business at Kittery, County of York and State of Maine, and that it is a citizen of the United States.

2. That it now has and from the time of the alleged taking by the United States of its real estate, property, lands, privileges and eas-

ments thereto belonging, has had a just claim against the United States for the value of certain real estate, property, rights, privileges and easements appurtenant thereto, taken by the United States for public use, for the purpose of the erection, installment and use of a certain gun battery at Gerrish Island, at Kittery Point in the State of Maine, known as Fort Foster, for which it has received no compensation from the United States.

3. Your petitioner further says, that on the 20th day of August, in the year 1902, it became and now is, the owner of 29 certain real estate, property, rights, privileges and appurtenants thereto belonging, situated on Gerrish Island in the town of Kittery, County of York and State of Maine, by virtue of a deed bearing date said 20th day of August, 1902, from one Samuel Ellery Jenison; which said deed was duly signed, sealed and acknowledged, delivered and recorded in the Registry of Deeds for said County of York, in Book No. 525, p. 293, to which said deed and its record reference is hereby made for the source of the title to the real estate, property, rights, privileges and easements aforesaid. A copy of said deed is marked Exhibit A and is found in the original petition in this case, to which reference is hereby made.

4. And your petitioner further avers, that said land is fast land and not subject to any lawful rights of the United States above high water mark. And that at the date of the taking by the United States, as alleged herein, said lands and buildings, property, rights, privileges and easements therein, were the private property of your petitioner and were subject to no right, title or interest of the United States, and no right, title or interest in said fast lands, and no property rights, privileges or easements have ever been claimed by the United States antagonistic to that of your petitioner; and said United States has never hitherto denied the title of your petitioner to said lands, buildings, property, rights, privileges and easements.

5. And your petitioner further avers, that in the year 1900, the United States erected at a distance of about 1,000 feet in the rear of said lands and buildings hereinbefore mentioned, a certain structure known as Fort Foster, being a gun battery, and installed therein a battery of three ten-inch disappearing guns, said Fort Foster being a public work of the United States; and since said year 1900, the said United States has continuously maintained said Fort Foster and does now maintain the same.

30. And your petitioner further avers that said Fort Foster was erected at a great expense and was intended to be and is a permanent structure. And in addition to said battery of ten-inch disappearing guns, the United States erected and still maintains a certain other battery of guns of a smaller calibre, known as the water battery.

6. And your petitioner further avers that it was and is a necessary part of the project of the erection and use of said Fort Foster and the installation of said ten-inch disappearing guns, that the zone of site of the same should include and does include all said land of your petitioner and all said buildings herein mentioned. And said fort cannot be used for the purpose for which it was erected without

the use by the United States of said lands, property, buildings, rights, privileges and easements appurtenant thereto.

7. And your petitioner further avers, that a necessary part of the scheme of building said Fort Foster and the installation of said ten-inch disappearing guns, was and is, that said fort should be occupied by officers and soldiers of the United States, and that said guns should be used for calibration and should be fired from time to time in time of peace and at all times, for practice, in order that the same should be ready at any time and all times for the purpose for which said fort was erected; and said practice is necessary to enable said officers and soldiers to acquaint themselves with the mechanism and use of said guns and to acquire a proficiency in aiming and firing said guns by firing at targets or other objectives off the coast of said Gerrish Island, where an enemy's vessel might come for the purpose of destroying or injuring the other forts of the United States at the

mouth of the said Piscataqua River, the Navy Yard of the  
31 United States at Kittery, Maine, the City of Portsmouth, New

Hampshire, and the bridge across said Piscataqua River connecting the States of New Hampshire and Maine, and property of citizens of the United States.

8. And your petitioner further avers, that the trajectory of shot fired from said guns at objectives, ranging from 1,500 to 10,000 yards, off the coast of said Gerrish Island, within the radius of fire of said guns in time of peace, is necessarily projected and intended by the United States in the building of said Fort Foster and the installation of said guns, includes and was intended to include, said land and buildings hereinbefore mentioned, or buildings that might be erected on the premises.

9. And your petitioner further avers that the project, intention and plan of building said Fort Foster and the installation of said guns was intended and does intend, the use of the guns in time of peace, at ranges of from 1,500 yards to 10,000 yards, and that the sphere of concussion of said guns includes and was intended to include the said lands and buildings hereinbefore mentioned, or that might hereafter be erected.

10. And your petitioner further avers, that the firing of shot guns over and across the premises of your petitioner and the concession of the same for practice or other purposes, in time of peace and at all times, interferes and circumscribes the lawful use by your petitioner of said land and buildings hereinbefore mentioned, so that the same are practically destroyed and their value is materially impaired and at no reasonable expense can it prevent the injury.

11. And your petitioner further avers, that in the year 1900 continuously, and now continuously, the United States in the exercise of its right of eminent domain under the Constitution of the United States and by authority of acts of Congress duly empowering its officers and agents thereto, took said lands, property, rights, privileges and easements, and the right, privilege and easement to use in time of peace and at all times, to the said ten-inch guns at any radius and at any elevation off the coast of said Gerrish Island, with concession to said buildings hereinbefore mentioned, for prac-

tee and other purposes, which said firing and concussion was a part of the scheme of building said Fort Foster and the installation of said ten-inch guns as herein set forth, and to continue such firing and concussion, and to practically destroy and materially impair the value of the same, and to circumscribe and interfere with the exclusive use by the plaintiff of its land, rights, property, privileges and easements; and your petitioner further avers that such firing and such concussion does produce the damage and injury aforesaid.

12. And your petitioner further avers, that in pursuance of the scheme involved in the taking as set forth in the preceding paragraph, the United States by its officers and soldiers, on or about the 22nd day of June, 1892, and in the forenoon of said day, fired one of said ten-inch guns with shot across the head of said petitioner at points off the coast of said Gerrish Island, and in the afternoon of said day repeated the same act, and on or about September 25th of the same year again repeated said act, all of said firings being in time of peace, and said firings caused the windows of said building hereinbefore mentioned, to break and to be otherwise injured.

And your petitioner further avers, that on many occasions since the alleged taking, and hitherto, the said officers and soldiers, have committed said ten-inch guns, by firing the same and aiming at the said buildings hereinbefore mentioned, as if to fire the same,

thus causing apprehension to the owners of said property, and because having received no notice of the proposed action, they assumed that the said officers and soldiers were about to fire said guns with shot, as they had, as heretofore mentioned, and your petitioner further avers that the commission of firing said guns with blank cartridges would produce the same damage as described in the preceding paragraph.

And the plaintiff further avers, that the repetition of said firing of said guns in any and all directions, would make permanent the damage by concussion on said plaintiff's property and thereby permanently destroy its use in time of peace, and at all times.

13. And your petitioner further avers, that at the time of the firing of said guns as set forth in the last paragraph, the United States had fully completed the erection of said ten-inch guns, with the exception of any other guns which it might thereafter determine to add to said Fort Foster.

14. And your petitioner further avers, that the reasonable compensation to it by the act of taking said lands, property, rights, privileges and easements, is Four Hundred thousand dollars.

15. And your petitioner further avers that it is the owner of the above lands herein mentioned and described, and that it has made no assignment or transfer of the same or any interest therein and that it has at all times been true to its allegiance to the United States and in no way aided or abetted or given encouragement to rebellion against the Government of the United States and that it is justly entitled to recover from the United States, the amount herein claimed, after allowing all just credits.

16. Wherefore your petitioner prays that this Honorable Court will find that there is due to said petitioner the sum of Four Hundred thousand dollars, together with such other and further

order and findings of law and fact as may in the premises be warranted by and in conformity with law.

(Signed)

COTTON & WHITE,

*Attorneys for Plaintiff.*

Personally appeared John B. Cotton, one of the attorneys who signed the above written petition, and made oath that the facts set forth thereto are true according to his knowledge and belief.

(Signed)

JOHN B. COTTON,

JANUARY 16, 1908.

Signed and sworn to before me the day and year above written.

[SEAL.]

JOHN RANDOLPH,

*Asstt Clerk Court of Claims.*

35

VI. *Transcript.* Filed November 15, 1910.

In the Court of Claims of the United States, December Term, A.D. 1911.

No. 27500.

MARY R. PEABODY

vs.

THE UNITED STATES.

And now comes the Attorney General, on behalf of the United States, and answering the petition of the claimant herein, denies each and every allegation therein contained; and asks judgment that the petition be dismissed.

JOHN Q. THOMPSON,

*Assistant Attorney General.*

In the Court of Claims of the United States, December Term, A.D. 1911.

No. 27501.

SACO & BIDDEFORD SAVINGS INSTITUTION

vs.

THE UNITED STATES.

And now comes the Attorney General, on behalf of the United States, and answering the petition of the claimant herein, denies each and every allegation therein contained; and asks judgment that the petition be dismissed.

JOHN Q. THOMPSON,

*Assistant Attorney General.*

36. In the Court of Claims of the United States, December Term,  
A. D. 1911.

No. 27502.

SAMUEL ELLERY JENNISON  
VS.  
THE UNITED STATES.

And now comes the Attorney General, on behalf of the United States, and answering the petition of the claimant herein, denies each and every allegation therein contained; and asks judgment that the petition be dismissed.

JOHN Q. THOMPSON,  
*Assistant Attorney General.*

In the Court of Claims of the United States, December Term, A. D.  
1911.

No. 27503.

THE PORTSMOUTH HARBOR LAND & HOTEL COMPANY  
VS.  
THE UNITED STATES.

And now comes the Attorney General, on behalf of the United States, and answering the petition of the claimant herein, denies each and every allegation therein contained; and asks judgment that the petition be dismissed.

JOHN Q. THOMPSON,  
*Assistant Attorney General.*

7. VII. *Arguement and Submission of Cases.*

On the 15th day of November these cases came on to be heard. Mr. William Frye White was heard for the claimants and Mr. F. D. Faust was heard in opposition. On the 16th day of November Mr. Chauncey Hackett was heard in reply and the cases were submitted.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE  
BY THE ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, 1911.

COUNT OF CLAIMS IN THE UNITED STATES

No. 27500

Mary R. Phinney

v.

UNITED STATES

No. 27501

SARAH BURDICK, SISTER, DECEASED

v.

UNITED STATES

No. 27502

SARAH LACEY, DECEASED

v.

UNITED STATES

No. 27503

PATRICK HENRY LEE, DECEASED

v.

UNITED STATES

Dated January 9, 1911.

Please you will be so kind to let the Agent of Claims do  
upon the following, the following:

*Findings of Fact*

I

The Plaintiff in No. 27502, Sarah Lacey, deceased, was born in the United States, and a citizen of King's County, in the State of Maine.

II

Mary R. Phinney, deceased, in the United States, and a citizen of Cambridge, in the States of Massachusetts and formerly of Massachusetts, and a citizen thereof.

The Sarah and Patrick Lacey Foundation, a corporation organized under the laws of Maine, of Boston, Massachusetts, in the State of Maine.

The Parsonsfield Harbor Land and Hotel Company, a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Maine, and doing business in York County, State of Maine.

## III.

Simeon Lifferty Jenison was at the time of the alleged taking, and had been since December, 1843, the owner of certain land and improvements thereon in Gerrish Island, State of Maine, and more particularly described as follows:

All that the said parcels of land formerly known as the Seaside Farm on Gerrish Island in the town of Kittery, county of York, State of Maine, containing 290 acres, more or less, with all the buildings, fixtures, and improvements thereon, and bounded as follows: Beginning at the easterly end of Gerrish Island at the west and southern boundary of the United States Government land, extending thence southerly by the line of said land and the lands of James J. McCollum, of the heirs of Ebenezer Safford, of Joseph B. Walker, of the heirs of Ephraim C. Smith, of William C. Williams, and of the heirs of William M. Gould, in their southerly by the land of the heirs of William M. Gould, in the Atlantic Ocean, extending and running from the above described boundaries described below certain lots which have heretofore been conveyed therefrom to George H. Fiske, to Henry N. Allen, to the Willard & Co., to G. W. Flagg and to Almon C. White.

## IV.

The tract was acquired by Jenison by a deed dated February 8, 1843, and by him conveyed to Alonzo M. Conner, whom he subsequently married. On July 10, 1853, his wife conveyed to Frederick J. See, who on the same date, conveyed the whole tract to Jenison. On December 30, 1867, Jenison mortgaged to the claimant, Mary R. Peabody, 29 acres of the tract to secure a debt of \$12,000. The same and holder of security, discontinued the remainder of the mortgagee's debt in \$22,000.

On August 20, 1892, Jenison deeded the entire tract, subject to the above mortgage, to the Portsmouth Harbor Land and Hotel Company, a body corporate organized under the laws of the State of Maine.

## V.

The claimant's land comprises 290 acres of land, of which 179 and a fraction acres are above high-water mark.

## VI.

At the time of the alleged taking there were on the land owned by the claimant the following structures and additions to the natural advantages. On the seaward end of the tract there were the Pocumtuck Hotel and bath houses, wharves, wharves, consisting of a water tower, windmill, two houses, two hotel cottages, an engine house, stable, carriage house, shed, bath houses, and steamboat pier. Farther to the east were several villages, as follows: Rock Ledge, cottages called the Wards, Crows Nest, Pinecroft, Mooring's, and the farmstead, sometimes called the Seaward, and the farmhouse, sometimes called the Promised Cottage. Near the Seaward was a

stable, and near the farmhouse a great barn, blacksmith shop, 10 small boathouse, and a henery. There was also a water supply system, which had been installed by the claimants, which supplied water for drinking and other purposes from the spring and pond.

### VII.

The land borders on its southern and eastern front the Atlantic Ocean, and on its western front the entrance to Portsmouth Harbor. It forms the southern corner of Gerrish Island, itself the southernmost point on the coast of Maine. The land consists of open grassy spaces, combined with woods of evergreen and hard wood. The shore is rocky, interspersed with sand beaches, and inland the land slopes up gradually. That part not occupied by cottages is available for building purposes. Nearly all the parts of the tract have an unobstructed view of the ocean. There is an excellent bathing beach near the hotel.

The island is well watered. There is a pond near the highway, about a quarter of a mile from the hotel. There is another near the road from the homestead, about one third of a mile from the sea. The former is about 3000 feet square and is fed by springs and also from watershed, and provides ice. There is an excellent spring near the hotel.

Gerrish Island and the land of the claimant is about 3 miles from Portsmouth. The hotel is about a mile and a half from the toll-free line which runs from Portsmouth to York Beach and other towns and seashore resorts. The railroad station of the York Harbor and Beach Railroad, a leased line of the Boston and Maine Railroad, is also about a mile and a half from the hotel. The land of the claimant has good roads, which have been constructed by the claimant. The outlet, from the property, is over the ocean, and to the New Hampshire coast across the harbor. There is fishing and facilities for bathing, sailing, riding and driving, also a place for golf.

The island is connected with the mainland by an iron bridge and a wooden bridge, both highway bridges.

### VIII.

The land of the claimants was suitable for summer residences or for a summer resort and was otherwise of little value, and at the time of the alleged taking was used as a site for a summer hotel and had several cottages thereon occupied as summer residences.

### IX.

At the time of the alleged taking of the said lands of the claimants, the fair value thereof, including the improvements thereto, was \$200,000, and there was situated thereon the Poquonock Hotel, which yielded the claimants a net profit of about \$5,000 per annum. For the years 1903 and 1904 there was a loss to the claimants in the conducting of said hotel. Since 1904 the hotel has been closed. At said time the cottages thereon situated were all rented for the summer season at reasonable rates of profit. Since that time the

claimants have only rented a portion of said cottages during each summer season and at reduced rates compared with previous years. The value of the land which was actually fired over by the guns of said fort as herein found, does not appear.

## B.

## X.

About one-third of the said lands of the claimants lies immediately between said military reservation and the sea toward the south, and the balance lies remotely between said reservation and those toward the east.

## XL.

By the act of February 21, 1873 (17 Stats., 468), Congress appropriated \$10,000 for batteries in Portsmouth Harbor, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on Gerrish Island and Jerry Point, fifty thousand dollars, and by the acts of April 3, 1874 (18 Stats., 251), and February 10, 1875 (18 Stats., 313), \$30,000 and \$20,000 additional, respectively, for the same purpose. Under the authority thus conferred the United States, in May, 1873, purchased a tract of land containing 70 acres, more or less, north and west of and abutting upon the claimants' land, and began to construct thereon, in June, 1873, a 12-gun battery, estimated to cost \$15,200, under the supervision of the Chief of Engineers of the United States Army. This battery, with the one opposite on Jerry Point, formed the outer line of defenses to Portsmouth Harbor and to the navy yard at Kincardine. In 1873 the work had reached an advanced stage of construction; \$85,000 had been expended thereon. The breast-height walls of the fortification were finished and the gun platforms were built except laying the trunks. Operations were closed in September of that year, however, for want of funds, and said fortification was not occupied by the defendants thereafter until work was resumed thereon as hereinafter stated.

Plans were subsequently prepared for the completion of the work and an appropriation of \$80,000 requested for this purpose during each fiscal year from 1873 to 1883 in the annual reports of the Secretary of War. No appropriation was made, however, nor was any resumed until after the passage of the act of May 7, 1898 (30 Stats., p. 100), "making an appropriation for fortifications and other works of defense for the armament of and for procurement of heavy ordnance for trial and service, and for other purposes," when allotment was made and the work of constructing a battery consisting of three 10-inch guns mounted in disappearing carriages and two 3-inch rapid fire guns was begun in September, 1898. This battery was located on the site of the former incomplete battery commenced in 1873, which had been designed to contain five guns with an angular field of fire wider than that possible for the guns of Battery Bohlen. The battery was practically completed on June 20, 1901, and was transferred to the artillery on December 16, 1901, and named "Fort Foster." No part of said fort encroaches upon the abutting land of the claimants. Said fort is located within 200 feet of the northeast corner of the claimants' land and about 1,000 feet from said

Hotel Pocahontas. At the time of the reconstruction of said Fort Foster as stated the hotel and cottages before mentioned were already built and in operation.

#### XII.

The said guns installed in said fort have a range of fire over and across all of the sea front of the lands of the claimants. If the dividing line between the claimants' land and the Government reservation between high and low water mark is a continuation in the same direction of the undivided dividing line between said premises above high-water mark, the guns of said Fort Foster can not be fired toward the sea without the projectiles from the same passing over and across the claimants' land.

If, however, said dividing line between high and low water mark from the point of termination of the undivided dividing line above high-water mark is a line bisecting the angle caused by lines diverging from said point of termination, as shown by the application of the following rule:

Draw a base line from the two corners of the claimants' land and the government reservation, respectively, where they meet the shore and from corners extend parallel lines to low water mark at right angles with the base lines.

the guns of said Fort Foster may be used for practice and for all other necessary purposes in time of peace without the projectiles from the same passing over or across the claimants' land. The most suitable field for firing the guns of the battery in times of peace for practice or other purposes would be over the claimants' land.

#### XIII.

The Government by its officers and men did on or about the 22d day of June, 1902, fire twice its six-guns for the purpose of testing them at a target off the coast and in such a direction that the rounds therefrom went over and across said lands of the claimants, and another of its said guns for the same purpose and to the same effect on the 25th of September, 1902, the effect of such fire being to do damage by concussion to the fortifications therein situated, and the furniture therein, to the extent of \$150.

None of these guns have been fired since but as far as the installation they have been kept in good condition by a deputized Port Constitution situated just across the Piscataqua River.

#### XIV.

It does not appear from the evidence that there is any intention on the part of the Government to fire any of its guns now installed or which may hereafter be installed, in said fort in time of peace except over and across the lands of the claimants, or to deprive them of the use of the same or any part thereof or to injure the same by concussion or otherwise, excepting as such intention can be drawn from the fact that the guns now installed in said fort are so fixed as to render it impossible so to do and the further fact that they were so fixed upon the occasions as hereinbefore found.

## XV.

The value of said real estate consists almost entirely in its adaptability and desirability as a summer resort and for the erection and maintenance thereon of summer hotels and cottages for occupation during the summer season, and the erection of said Fort Foster battery, the removal and the installation thereof of said guns has materially impaired the value thereof, and said impairment will continue so long as said fort and said artillery thereon are maintained. Said impairment of value consists in this, viz., probable guests for the hotel—which now are or may be hereafter erected thereon or probable lessees or occupants of the cottages which now are or hereafter may be erected thereon or probable purchasers of any of said buildings for summer resort purpose will apprehend that said artillery may fire in time of peace (or) and across said lands or in front thereto as to create a disturbance which will destroy its peaceful quietude and by conversion materially do damage to the buildings which may be erected thereon.

*Combination of Laws.*

Upon the foregoing findings of fact the court decides as a consequence of law that the claimants are not entitled to recover and their petitions are therefore dismissed.

*Opinion.*

BENJAMIN J. COULDRIDGE delivered the opinion of the court.

The above suits have been consolidated by stipulation, and for the purposes of this decision will be treated as one case. In fact, we see no reason why they were not originally brought as one case.

These suits are to recover compensation for property alleged to have been taken by the United States in the exercise of its power of eminent domain, and for which no compensation has been made pursuant to the fifth amendment of the Constitution.

The original petition in this suit was demurred to by defendants, and this demurrer was sustained by the court. (*Penobscot v. United States*, 15 U. S. 48, 47, 126.) Pursuant to leave granted the petition is amended; evidence was submitted, and the whole case is now before the court for its decision upon the merits.

The case made by the claimants, as appears from the findings, is as follows: In the month of May, 1873, the Government purchased a tract of land containing about 70 acres on what is known as Gerrish Island, which is located in the extreme northwest extremity of the State of Maine, at the mouth of the Penobscot River, and is only separated from the mainland at high water by a narrow inlet. In the following year it began the erection of a battery on this reservation, and continued operations to that end until about the year 1876, up to which time about \$70,000 had been expended in the work. It does not appear that up to the latter date any guns had been installed.

in the battery, and the work seems to have been abandoned or neglected until 1898, when an effort was made for the completion of this battery, and in pursuance thereto a battery consisting of three 10-inch guns was constructed on the old site. This battery was completed about June 30, 1901, and named "Fort Foster" and is a part of the defenses of Portsmouth Harbor, which begins at the mouth of the Piscataqua River.

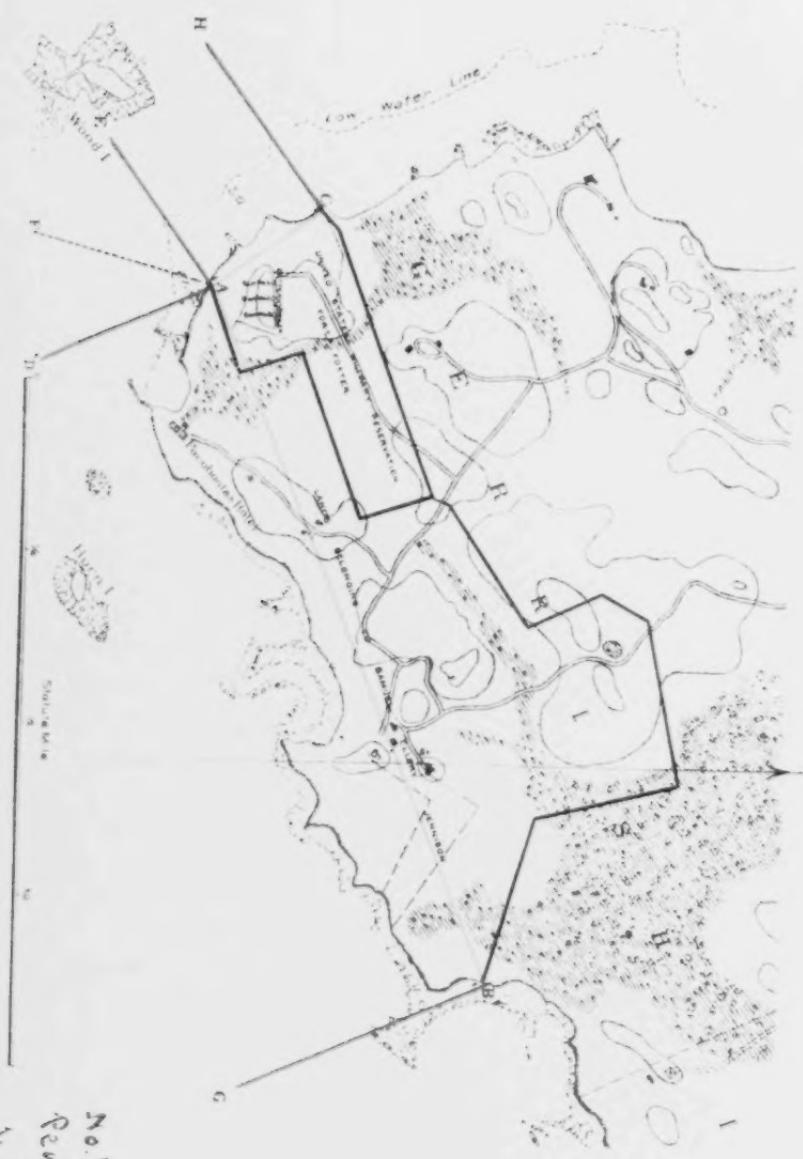
In 1883 the claimant Jennison became the owner of about 200 acres of land on Garrison Island, situated south and west of the government reservation and fronting about 1 mile on the Atlantic Ocean. This land is peculiarly adapted for use as a summer resort on account of its shore front, bathing beaches, timber, springs, etc., and is otherwise of little value. The next year Mr. Jennison began the erection of a summer hotel thereon called the Pocahontas, which has been added to from time to time since till at the time of the alleged taking it contained thirty guest rooms and had cost about \$50,000. In the meantime he also built and furnished several cottages on this land to rent during the summer season at a cost of about \$10,000. This hotel and the cottages had been yielding Mr. Jennison considerable profit for several years prior to the alleged taking of the land by the Government. The hotel and cottages were built and in operation for some years before the construction of Fort Foster was started, and the fort is located within 200 feet of the northwest corner of the claimants' land and within 1,000 feet of the hotel.

In the month of June, 1902, the soldiers stationed at Fort Foster fired two of the guns then installed, for the purpose of testing the same, over and across the premises of Mr. Jennison at a target located several miles off the shore, and fired the other gun in the same manner in the month of September following. The effect of this firing, by way of comparison, was to do considerable damage to the hotel and cottages by disturbing the foundation of the hotel, breaking glass, etc. None of these guns have since been fired, but they are kept in constant condition by a detail from a neighboring fort.

It appears from the findings that the erection of this fort and the installation therein of said guns in the manner stated has materially impaired the value of claimants' land by standing as a constant menace to its quietude as a summer resort and thereby keeping from it probable guests and purchasers. The question then before us is: Whether such impairment of value brought about in the manner stated is a "taking" of the property of the claimants within the fifth amendment of the Constitution?

In an attempt to make the averment in the amended petition in this suit set forth, relating of claimants' property within the meaning of the law, the substantial statement in that regard is that it was and is the intention and plan of the Government to fire the guns of Fort Foster over and across the premises of the claimants for practice and other purposes, and that none of said guns can be so fired for any effective purpose without the projectiles from the same passing over the claimants' intervening land, and evidence has been furnished to sustain this averment.

The findings show and there appears to be no dispute upon this



No. 695  
Reuterodonta { p. 14



subject) that if the dividing line between claimants' land and the government reservation between high and low water mark is a continuation in the same direction of the undisputed dividing line between said premises above high-water mark, the guns of this fort can not be fired toward the sea without the projectiles therefrom passing over and across claimants' land. On the other hand, however, the findings show that if the undisputed boundary line between the claimants' and the Government's land terminates at high-water mark, and the boundary line between them from said point to low water is the line bisecting the angle formed by two lines drawn from said point to low-water mark, one at a right angle to a base line drawn between the two extreme points where the claimants' land touches the shore line at high water, the other at a right angle to a base line drawn between the two extreme points where the Government's land touches the shore at high water, the guns of said Fort Foster may be fired for practice and for all other necessary purposes in time of peace without the projectiles passing over and across claimants' land.

Hence the settlement of the location of this boundary line may be considered as decisive of this case. The law of the State of Maine as to boundary lines of contiguous proprietors between high and low water mark of course must be looked to in order to settle this question. (St. Anthony Falls Water Power Co. v. Water Commission, 158 U. S., 358, 389.)

The Colonial Ordinance of 1641 provides that the coast line of all lands in the State of Maine shall be the line of low-water mark, and while the ordinance makes no express provision for it, the courts of Maine appear to have decided that under this ordinance the flats lying between high and low water mark must be equitably divided between adjacent owners. It will readily be seen without illustration that such equitable divisions in many cases could not be effected by an extension over the flats of the lines bounding the uplands, as some of them might be so oblique as to almost entirely deprive some of the riparian proprietors of any part of the ocean beach. This question came before the courts of Maine many years ago, and the following rule as to such subdivisions was adopted:

To divide flats between adjoining riparian proprietors, draw a base line from one corner, at high-water mark, of each lot to the other, and run a line from each end of this line at right angles to low-water mark. If, by reason of the curvature of the shore, the lines diverge or conflict with each other, the gain or loss is to be divided equally between adjoining lot owners by bisecting the angles made by the diverging or conflicting lines. (3 Farnham on Waters, 283; Emerson v. Taylor, 9 Maine, 42; Colly v. Carroll, 10 Maine, 3; Dillingham v. Roberts, 77 Maine, 281.)

The following map will show the application of this rule to this case.

(Here follows map marked p. 46.)

The red line A-B represents the base line drawn from where claimants' and Government's land terminates at high-water mark to the point where claimants' next dividing line terminates at high water. The red line A-C represents the base line of the same chapter relating to the government reservation. The blue lines A-D and A-E are drawn at right angles from said base lines and form the angle which is bisected by the dotted line A-F gives the boundary line of the government reservation and claimants' land between high and low water mark. If said boundary line were a continuation in the same direction of the dividing line between said premises, the same is substantially indicated by the blue line A-E, angling however, a little too far to the south.

It will thus be seen that under this rule the Government is the proprietor of that part of the flats situated to the west of line A-F, which the findings show is sufficient territory over and across which to fire the guns at Fort Foster for practice or any other purpose in time of peace. Such being the case, it can hardly be contended that the firing of these guns, each of them once, in another direction so as to send the projectiles over the claimants' land constitutes a "taking" of their property. We can only judge of what property, if any, the Government has designed to have taken by that over which it has asserted some dominion, or from the possession or enjoyment of which it has actually deprived the owner. If the single discharge of its guns over the lands of the claimants caused them any damage, as it doubtless did, it was a loss over which, as against the Government, this court and no court has any jurisdiction.

The presence of Fort Foster and the probability and perhaps certainty that at times the guns there installed will be fired in time of peace for practice, and that such firing by concession will injure the property of the plaintiffs, as well as disturb the quietude of summer resorters in its locality, is but consequential damage for which the Government is not liable.

Hence the petition is dismissed.

47 IX. *Judgment of the Court.*

No. 27500.

MARY R. PEABODY  
vs.  
THE UNITED STATES.

No. 27501.

SACO AND BIDDEFORD SAVINGS INSTITUTION  
vs.  
THE UNITED STATES.

No. 27502.

SAMUEL ELLERY JENNISON  
vs.  
THE UNITED STATES.

No. 27503.

PORTSMOUTH HARBOR LAND AND HOTEL COMPANY  
vs.  
THE UNITED STATES.

At a Court of Claims held in the City of Washington on the 9th day of January 1911, judgment was ordered to be entered as follows:

The Court on due consideration of the premises find for the defendant, and to order, adjudge and decree, that the petitions of Mary R. Peabody, Saco and Biddeford Savings Institution, Samuel Ellery Jennison and Portsmouth Harbor Land and Hotel Company, be and the same are hereby dismissed.

BY THE COURT.

48 X. *Claimants' Motions for New Trial and Orders of Court on Same.*

On February 6, 1911 the claimants filed a motion for a new trial which was overruled by the Court on February 20, 1911.

On March 9, 1911 the claimants filed a motion for a new trial which was overruled April 3, 1911.

On December 29, 1911 the claimants filed a motion to vacate judgments, motion to vacate orders overruling motions for a new trial and to restore causes to the calendar. On February 19, 1912 this motion was argued by Mr. John Lowell in support of the motion and Mr. Frederic De C. Faust opposed, and the motion was submitted. On February 26, 1912 the Court filed the following order:

## Court of Claims of the United States.

Nos. 27500, 27501, 27502, 27503.

MARY R. PEABODY ET AL.

VS.

THE UNITED STATES.

*Order.*

In the above causes the claimants, by their attorneys having made a motion to vacate the orders overruling the motions for a new trial made by claimants in said causes, and it appearing that the said motions for a new trial were brought before the court in chambers without the knowledge and desire of claimants' counsel, and without the knowledge of defendant's counsel, and before briefs were filed by either party *ant* not upon the motion of the court itself or of the attorney for the United States; and it appearing in consequence that said motions for a new trial were prematurely considered and overruled without briefs or argument.

It is ordered, that the orders overruling said motions for a new trial in said causes be and the same are hereby set aside, and said motions are hereby referred to the Law Calendar.

BY THE COURT

49. XL. *Argument on Claimants' Motion for New Trial.*

On the 6th day of May 1912 the claimants' motion for new trial came on to be heard. Mr. Chauncey Hackett and Mr. John Lowe were heard in support of the motion and Mr. F. De C. Faust was heard in opposition thereto and the motion was submitted.

XII. *Order of Court on said Motion. Filed May 27, 1912.**Order.*

Claimants' motion for a new trial is overruled. Claimants' motion to amend the findings is allowed in part and overruled in part. Finding XII is amended by adding thereto the words: "The most suitable field for firing the guns of the battery in times of peace for practice or other purposes would be over the claimants' land."

As thus amended said findings to be filed nine pre time as of January 9, 1911, the judgment and opinion to stand.

The claimants' motion filed May 15, 1912, to amend findings is overruled.

BY THE COURT

50 XIII. *Claimants' Application for and Allowance of Appeal.*

The Court of Claims,

No. 27500, also No. 27501, 27502, 27503,

MARY R. PEABODY

v.

THE UNITED STATES.

The claimants by their attorney, William Frye White, move this Honourable Court to grant appeals in the above cases to the Supreme Court of the United States.

WM. FRYE WHITE,

*Attorney for Claimants.*

Filed June 3, 1912.

Ordered: That the above appeals be allowed as prayed for.

June 3, 1912. BY THE COURT.

51

Court of Claims.

Mary R. Peabody, No. 27,500;

Saco and Biddeford Savings Institution, No. 27,501;

Samuel Ellery Jennison, No. 27,502;

The Portsmouth Harbor Land and Hotel Company, No. 27,503;

I, Archibald Hopkins, Chief Clerk Court of Claims, hereby certify that the foregoing are true transcripts of the pleadings in the above-entitled causes; of the findings of fact and conclusion of law filed by the Court; of the opinion of the Court; of the final judgment of the Court; of the claimants' motions for new trial and orders of the Court on same; of the argument on claimants' motion for new trial; of the order of the Court on said motions; of the claimants' application for, and allowance of, appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Court of Claims this 29<sup>th</sup> day of June 1912.

[Seal Court of Claims.]

ARCHIBALD HOPKINS,

*Chief Clerk Court of Claims.*

Endorsed on cover. File No. 23,270. Court of Claims. Term No. 3d5. Mary R. Peabody, Saco and Biddeford Savings Institution, Samuel Ellery Jennison, and The Portsmouth Harbor Land and Hotel Company, appellants, vs. The United States. Filed June 29th, 1912. File No. 23,270.



Office Supreme Court, U. S.  
FILED.

DEC 23 1912

JAMES H. MCKENNEY,  
*Deputy*

# Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1912.

MARY R. PEABODY, SACO & BIDFORD SAVINGS INSTITUTION,  
SAMUEL TILLEY, TENNESSEE,  
AND THE PORTSMOUTH HAR-  
BOR LAND AND HARBOR COMPANY,  
Appellants,

No. 289

The United States,

Vice-Chancellor, Court of Appeals.

## MOTION TO ADVANCE

Now come the appellants, and move the court to adjudge this cause and set it down for hearing in the earliest date that will give the convenience of the Court.

MARY R. PEABODY,  
SACO & BIDFORD SAVINGS INSTITUTION,  
SAMUEL TILLEY, TENNESSEE,  
THE PORTSMOUTH HARBOR LAND & HARBOR CO.

By CHARLES H. KEESEY,

John Lowry,

Attala

*of Counsel*

Service of the above notice accepted this 17 December,  
1912.

W. M. MARSHALL REED,

*Secretary to Clerk*

## BRIEF.

We respectfully ask the Court to set this case down for hearing at the earliest day convenient to the Court. The action is brought to recover for the taking of certain property on Gerrish Island, formerly the land of the appellant Jemison, the value of which has been found by the Board of Claims to have been two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) at the time of the alleged taking.

The appellant is pursuing his right under the Fifth Amendment to the Federal Constitution, asserting that he is entitled to just compensation for property which has been taken for the public use.

His right to recover compensation is founded on the proposition that the Government has taken property in establishing an adjoining land fortifiable battery of three ten inch guns including in their salvoes a five per cent land and firing them across the same, the private land intervening between the fort and the sea. Without regard for the persons concerned, the decision in this case will determine an important question of policy of the United States in the future location of its coast defenses. The battery in question is located back of private property, that is, with private land intervening between the fort and the sea. If the inclusion of private land within the radius of fire of a Government fort has the firing of projectiles over such private land before taking, the United States will, in future, have to locate its coast defense forts directly on the sea or completely the intervening land. If, on the other hand, this is not a taking, it will be highly unwise for the Government to locate coast defense batteries behind private land instead of on the ocean front. The location of coast batteries depends on the outcome of this cause. It is in the interest of the United States to have this important question decided as soon as possible.

The appellant Johnson is seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) in debt, because of the action of the Government of the United States with regard to this property. The interest on this debt continues to run against him, while no interest can accrue to him if judgment be given in his favor, by reason of the rule of law that interest is not obtainable against the United States. The appellant is therefore exposed to a continuous loss, and he is already in a condition of hopeless insolvency, unless the Court find in his favor.

If the case takes its usual course, it will not be heard for a year and a half, and the appellant will suffer a complete loss of the interest for this period, a loss for which he can never be reimbursed. Although insolvent he has not been forced into bankruptcy, by reason of the confidence which his creditors have in him, and because of their forbearance at any moment, however, he may be forced into bankruptcy and therefore the speedy hearing of this case means everything to him. We feel strongly that this is a case which merits prompt adjudication, being one of unusual hardship, and we trust that the Court will see its way clear to granting our prayer.

A similar motion was granted in a case of less hardship in *Jordan v. Landman* (203 U. S. 563, Oct. Term 1904, No. 179).

JOHN LOWELL,  
CHAUNCEY HACKETT,  
JOHN LOWELL,  
*for Appellant,*  
CHAS. C. BROWN,  
*for Plaintiff,*

## AFFIDAVIT

for the Commonwealth  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

I, Samuel Ellery Jenison, a citizen of the County of York and State of Maine, on oath depose and say that I am the chief one of the appellants in the case of Mary R. Boddy, against the United States, filed in the October term 1912, in this Court. My statement is as follows:

In 1902 I was the owner of about one hundred and eighty acres of land at Gerrish Island, Kennebunk, Maine, containing the first mile of the celebrated Maine coast road at the junction of Portsmouth Harbor and the ocean, where we enjoyed the best years of my life. I had devoted myself absolutely and successfully to the development of a summer colony until, from a bare rock, built in the wilderness, I had progressed so that I was deriving a net profit annually from my hotel there of five thousand dollars (\$5,000), and about the same from my cottages and accessories, and also was taking from time to time sales of 500. The business became capable of almost unlimted expansion. In connection with and as a complement to the Gerrish Island property I took a lease of a small apartment hotel at 186 Commonwealth Avenue in Boston, not as a money making proposition, as it never was such (the Gerrish Island property made the money), but so that I could keep my Manager (I confined both houses through a Manager) and other employees throughout the year so as not to have to get new and strange ones each season. Both houses were kept up to the best class.

In June, 1902, the Government established a battery of three 16-inch canon about 1,000 feet distant and in the rear of my hotel and cottages and fired projectiles across my land, causing considerable physical damage and consternation and terror to those present. Owing to the sensitive nature of the summer resort business, the mere possi-

lity of the repetition of such an occurrence destroyed the enterprise. From 1902 to 1904 I appealed to the War Department for relief, without avail, and continued to try to carry on the business, but from 1902 through 1904, instead of a profit of about ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) a year I suffered a loss of about four thousand dollars (\$4,000) each season, so after 1904, unable to stand further loss, I shut down the place, and brought suit against the United States, as there was nothing else I could do. At that time there were mortgages on the property of thirty-nine thousand dollars (\$39,000) (\$12,000 at 5% interest and \$27,000 at 6% interest), and I was compelled to borrow nine thousand seven hundred dollars (\$9,700) more at 6%, all of which remains unpaid, and I have been unable to pay any interest, keep up the insurance, or make any repairs up to the present time and now it is the only property I have. The principal and interest of my debts now amounts to over seventy thousand dollars (\$70,000) so that I am and have been hopelessly insolvent, with the above liabilities and no assets (except some second-hand furniture) except the amount, if now found due me by the United States for the property.

Why the mortgages have not been foreclosed and my creditors have not pressed for collection and plunged me into bankruptcy I do not understand, unless that, after many years' business relations with me, they have known me to be an upright and successful man, a developer and benefit to the community, who would pay whenever I had the money; and too, being perfectly familiar with the situation, have complete faith in the justice of my claim. But their forbearance cannot and ought not last forever. My lease of the Boston house, all that has kept me in existence, by my discharging the manager and filling the position myself, expires the first of next July, and, as the possibility of loss is great and the possibility of profit small, I do not dare to

(try to continue it, if I were permitted. What will happen then, I knew not, as over fifty seven is a poor age at which to begin anew, and is not sought for employment; and my wife, having no fortune, I cannot live upon her. Almost literally have I been shot out of business standing and existence, unless my cause prevails, and every day of delay increases my indebtedness and reduces substantially the amount available if I succeed.

I am entirely destitute of means except for the lease of the best of property which expires on the first of July next, and I have prosecuted this case through the kindness of my counsel who have not received so far any payment in the way of fees. July 1st I shall be absolutely without income and the question of the determination of my rights in this cause is of the most vital importance to me.

SAMUEL ELLERY JENNISON

Sworn to before me this 26th day of November, 1912.

HERBERT HENRY DARLING,

[SEAL]

Notary Public,  
Suffolk County

Suppl.

10

**APENAS UMA VIDA NA TERRA DESTE CÉU**



# Supreme Court of the United States.

October Term, 1912.

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NO. 695.

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MARY R. PEABODY, SACO & BIDDEFORD SAVINGS INSTITUTION, SAMUEL ELLERY JENNISON, AND THE PORTSMOUTH HARBOR LAND AND HOTEL COMPANY,

*Appellants*

v.s.

THE UNITED STATES.

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## APPEAL FROM THE COURT OF CLAIMS.

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# Supreme Court of the United States.

October Term, 1912.

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NO. 695.

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MARY R. PEABODY, SACO & BIDDEFORD SAVINGS INSTITUTION, SAMUEL ELLERY JENNISON, AND THE PORTSMOUTH HARBOR LAND AND HOTEL COMPANY,  
*Appellants*  
*vs.*

THE UNITED STATES.

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APPEAL FROM THE COURT OF CLAIMS.

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## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

This appeal from the Court of Claims includes four cases all relating to the same subject. The parties have several interests in the same land for the taking of which by the United States the actions are brought. Mary R. Peabody and the Savings Institution are mortgagees; S. Ellery Jennison was the record owner until August 20th, 1902, and the Hotel Company took by deed from him on that date. In our consideration of the case, the title of the Hotel Com-

pany is unimportant as the land was taken by the United States, according to our view, before said Hotel Company acquired title (in June, 1902), and therefore Jennison (on the 20th of August, following), conveyed nothing to it. (Findings of Fact I, II, III, IV, XIII, Transcript of Record pages 24, 25, 28.)

The essential facts are as follows:

The property of the claimants consisted of about 200 acres of land extending for about a mile along the Atlantic Ocean at Gerrish Island in the State of Maine. This property was originally purchased by the claimant Jennison for the purpose of creating a seashore resort. With this end in view he had built thereon a first class summer hotel called the Pocahontas Hotel, from which he derived a net annual income of about \$5,000. He had also built several cottages upon the property which were all rented and were returning reasonable rates of profit. The value of the property as found by the Court of Claims was \$200,000. (V-IX, 25, 26.)

About a quarter of a mile behind the Hotel Pocahontas, and within 200 feet of the claimants' land the United States Government erected a coast defense battery of three ten inch guns known as Battery Bolden. According to the finding of the Court of Claims the guns of this battery were so placed that the most suitable field of fire in time of peace was over the claimants' land. (XI, XII, 27, 28.)

It was physically possible to fire the guns to sea over a narrow strip of land found by the Court of Claims to belong to the United States government, without the shots actually passing over the claimants' land, but to do so would necessitate firing close to an inhabited government lighthouse and just avoiding the Rye Beach section of the New Hampshire shore. (XII, 28.)

The guns of the battery were fired on three occasions prior to the beginning of this litigation, and each of these times the shot passed directly over the claimants' land.

MAPS

TOO

LARGE

FOR

FILMING

Scale of Miles

Map drawn by J. N. D.

ROX HEAD

LITTLE BOAR'S  
HEAD

The situation is shown by the map. The narrow edge colored blue represents the extreme government contention as to the extent of free fire to open sea without going over the claimants' land. The wide pink area represents the zone of fire over the claimants' land. It is through this space that the shots were fired in 1902. The brown area represents the angle of fire which does not reach the open sea at all. (XII, XIII, 28.)

The Court of Claims has found that the claimants' property is of little value excepting as a summer resort (Finding VIII), and that the installation of the guns by the United States government has materially impaired the value of the property for that purpose and will continue to do so so long as they remain. (Finding XV.)

#### SPECIFICATIONS OF ERROR.

1. In concluding on the findings of fact that claimants are not entitled to recover, under the fifth amendment of the constitution.

2. In finding XI, in stating that the fortification which defendant started to build in June, 1873, and abandoned in 1876, before putting in any guns was "*resumed*" in 1898, 22 years later, when Battery Bohlen was begun on the site of the "former uncompleted battery"; in so far as the works begun in 1873 are concerned, there is error in the statement of the finding in that it is self-contradictory, stating in one place that work was *resumed* on the old abandoned battery and in another that work was begun on the new battery, whereas from the facts stated it is evident that the "old battery" so-called never came into existence as a battery, no guns ever having been set up, and that the present battery was an entirely new project begun in 1898 and completed in 1902.

3. In establishing the boundary in the manner shown (p. 46), on the map accompanying the opinion.

4. In holding that the possibility of firing the guns to sea

within the angle formed by the boundary adopted by the Court of Claims and the line intersecting the coast of New Hampshire (see map, p. 7) is decisive of the case.

5. In holding that the intention of the Government to use the land of claimant as negatived by the possibility of their being able to fire elsewhere.

6. In dismissing the petitions on the facts found.

7. In overruling the claimant's motion for a new trial.

8. In not amending the finding of law, and modifying the opinion, in accordance with the fact found by the Court, May 27, 1912, *i. e.*, that "the most suitable field for firing the guns of the battery in time of peace for practice or other purposes would be over the claimant's land."

9. In not finding that the property of the claimant has been taken from him without just compensation where guns of a permanent battery established by the United States have been fired over and across the same; and where the guns are so fixed as to make it possible to do so in the future.

10. In not holding that where a coast defense battery of 3 10-inch guns is established by the United States behind intervening sea-side property so that the most suitable field of fire is over said property and all of said guns have been fired over said property that the said property or a property right in the same has been taken within the meaning of the fifth amendment of the Federal Constitution, and that the United States is liable for the value thereof.

11. In not holding that where the United States has so fired guns over private land as to deprive the owner of the use thereof and to impair materially its value, and has so fixed the guns that they command the said land and deprive the owner of its use, that the land is taken within the meaning of the fifth amendment of the Federal Constitution.

## ARGUMENT.

## I.

**IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO FIRE THE GUNS WITH SAFETY EXCEPT OVER THE CLAIMANTS' LAND.**

The Court of Claims has found that the guns of the battery may be fired for all necessary purposes in time of peace without the projectiles crossing over the claimants' land. A glance at the map will show that although it is thus possible for the guns to be fired over the area found by the Court of Claims to belong to the United States government, and without the shot actually passing over the claimants' land, to do so would necessitate firing close to Whalesback Light, an inhabited government lighthouse, and to the populous New Hampshire shore. When we consider that the range of these great ten-inch guns is from six to eight miles and that on striking the water the shot frequently deflects many degrees from the line of fire, it is evident that any shot fired over the area found to belong to the United States government would be dangerous both to life and property.

## II.

**THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT INTENDED TO FIRE THE GUNS OVER THE CLAIMANTS' LAND IN TIME OF PEACE.**

The Court of Claims has found: first, that it was necessary to fire the guns for practice in time of peace (Finding XII); second, that the guns were so installed as to have a range of fire over all of the claimants' sea front (Finding

XII); third, that the most suitable field of fire was over the claimants' land (Finding XII); and fourth, that on the three occasions when the guns were actually fired, all prior to the beginning of this litigation, they were fired directly across the claimants' land (Finding XIII).

The above findings coupled with the fact already shown, that it would be extremely dangerous to fire these powerful guns in any direction except over the claimants' land, establish, as conclusively as anything can be established, that the intent of the government was to fire over the claimants' land. As the most suitable field of fire was across the claimants' land, it is inconceivable that the government would establish a battery intending always to use the guns in an unsuitable way.

### III.

The fifth amendment to the United States Constitution provides in part as follows: "Nor shall private property be taken for public use without just compensation."

#### A. WHAT IS PROPERTY.

Until after the middle of the last century, property was considered to consist only in the actual possession of chattels or of land and the true meaning of property, namely the collection of rights attaching to the things or land, was not appreciated. These rights may be shortly defined as the rights of use, exclusion and disposition. It is these rights which constitute property and it is the interference with these rights which, if carried so far as to impair materially their value, constitutes a taking. We shall show by our

citations from text books and cases that the courts have now realized what is the true meaning of property.

In the case of

*Old Colony and Fall River Railroad Company v. County of Plymouth*, 14 Gray, 155,

at page 161, SHAW, C. J., says:

"The word 'property' in the tenth article of the Bill of Rights, which provides that 'whenever the public exigencies require that the property of any individual should be appropriated to public uses he shall receive a reasonable compensation therefor,' should have such a liberal construction as to include every valuable interest which can be enjoyed as property and recognized as such.

"Nor is it material whether the property is removed from the possession of the owner, or in any respect changes hands; if it is of such a character and so situated that the exercise of the public use of it, as warranted by the legislature does in its necessary, natural consequences, affect the property, by taking it from the owner, or depriving him of the possession or some beneficial enjoyment of it, then it is 'appropriated' to public use by competent authority, and the owner is entitled to compensation."

Hare on *American Constitutional Law* says at page 357:

"The term property may be used to signify the thing owned or possessed, or the rights and privileges which together make up the aggregate of use or enjoyment implied in ownership. Property may therefore justly be defined as 'the dominion or indefinite right of user or disposition which one may exercise over particular things or subjects.' This is its appropriate meaning, and that which it has in the Constitution; although it is not infrequently used to indicate the thing rather than the right, and much of the uncertainty and con-

fusion observable in the decisions have arisen from overlooking this distinction.

"Such, manifestly, is the true interpretation of the Federal Constitution, because the same amendment which guarantees the right to compensation when property is taken for public purposes, provides that no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law."

According to Bentham:

"The integral or entire right of property includes four particulars: 1. Right of occupation 2. Right of excluding others. 3. Right of disposition or the right of transferring the integral right to other persons. 4. Right of transmission, in virtue of which the integral right is often transmitted after the death of the proprietor, without any disposition on his part to those in whose possession he would have wished to place it."

*I. Bentham's Works (1813), 308.*

Property is defined by the *New Oxford Dictionary* as

"the right (esp. the exclusive right) to the possession, use, or disposal of anything (usually of a tangible material thing)."

"Property signifies the right or interest which one has in land or chattels. In this sense it is used by the learned and unlearned, by men of all ranks and conditions. We find it so defined in dictionaries and so understood by the best authors."

*Morrison v. Semple*, 6 Binn., 94, 98,

approved in

*Jackson v. Housel*, 17 Johns., 281, 283.

"The exclusive right of possessing, enjoying and disposing of a thing, which, of course, includes the use of a thing."

*Chicago & Western Indiana Railroad Co. vs.  
Englewood Connecting R. R. Co.*, 115 Ill., 375, 385.

"in its broader and more appropriate sense, is not alone the chattel or land itself but the right to freely possess, use, and alienate the same; and many things are considered property which have no tangible existence, but which are necessary to the satisfaction, use and enjoyment of that which is tangible."

*City of Denver v. Beyer*, 7 Colo., 113.

"Sometimes the term (property) is applied to the thing itself as to a horse or tract of land. These things, however, though the subjects of property, are, when coupled with possession, but the indicia, the visible manifestation of invisible rights the evidence of things not seen. Property then, in a determinate object, is composed of certain constituent elements to wit, the unrestricted right of use, enjoyment and disposal of that object."

*City of St. Louis v. Hill*, 116 Mo., 527.

"whatever a person can possess or enjoy by right."

*Sinking Fund Cases*, 99 U. S., 400, 438.

Lewis on *Eminent Domain* Third Edition, Volume 1, says on pages 51 and 52 "In determining the question of what constitutes the taking of property, it is important to have at the outset, a clear understanding of what property really is."

The term is applied in many different meanings. "Sometimes," says Austin, "it is taken in a loose and vulgar acceptation to denote not the right of property or dominion, but the subject of such a right; as where a horse or piece of land is called my property." 2 Austin's Jur., 1051. A little reflection, however, will suffice to convince anyone that property is not the corporeal thing itself of which it is predicated, but certain rights in or over the thing. Land undergoes no corporeal change by the mere fact of being reduced to the dominion and ownership of man. An animal *ferae naturae* may be precisely the same before and after capture, but in his former state no one would speak of him as property. We must, therefore, look beyond the thing

itself, beyond the mere corporeal object, for the true idea of property. Property may be defined as certain rights in things which pertain to persons and which are created and sanctioned by law. These rights are the right of user, the right of exclusion and the right of disposition.

The claimants were together the legal and equitable owners of the land, and as such had the right to occupy it, use it and enjoy it exclusively, subject to the restrictions established by law. They had the right to use the property in any way they saw fit, so long as they did not commit a nuisance, or otherwise imperil the safety, health and comfort of the community by using the property criminally or illegally. They could dig up the soil and carry it away; erect on it structures of any size or shape; devote the land to any use, agricultural, social, manufacturing, or otherwise as they saw fit; they could occupy any part of it at any time. It was wholly theirs, subject only to such regulations as the law imposes on all land plus certain rights in the public (such as navigation over submerged portions at high tide), common to all sea coast and riparian owners in the State of Maine.

## B. WHAT CONSTITUTES A TAKING

In the early cases a taking was held to be the actual physical appropriation of the property or a divesting of the title of it.

Mr. Sedgwick writing on the subject in 1857, said:

"It seems to be settled that, to entitle the owner to protection under this clause (Fifth Amendment to United States Constitution) the property must be actually taken, in the physical sense of the word, and that the proprietor is not entitled to claim remuneration for indirect or consequential damage no matter how serious or how clearly or unquestionably resulting from the exercise of the power of eminent domain."

*Sedgwick Const. Law, 2d Ed., pp. 456, 458.*

The conception that a taking required actual appropriation of the property or a divesting of the title of it, has been gradually broadening.

Lewis on Eminent Domain, Vol. 1, pp. 56, 57, says:

"If property, then, consists, not in tangible things themselves, but in certain rights in, appurtenant to those things, it follows that, when a person is deprived of any of those rights, he is to that extent deprived of his property, and hence, his property may be taken, in the constitutional sense, though his title and possession remain undisturbed; and it may be laid down as a general proposition, based upon the nature of property itself, that whenever the lawful rights of an individual to the possession, use or enjoyment of his land are in any degree abridged or destroyed by reason of the exercise of the power of eminent domain, his property is, *pro tanto*, taken, and he is entitled to compensation."

"It will thus be seen that, in order that there may be a recovery of compensation for damages to property no part of which is taken such damages must be the result of a violation of some one or more of the rights which constitute property."

In the case of

*Stockdale v. Rio Grande Western Ry. Co.*, 28 Utah, 201,

the court says on page 211:

"Any substantial interference with private property which destroys or lessens its value, or by which the owner's right to his use and enjoyment is in any substantial degree abridged or destroyed, is, in fact, and in law, a taking, in the constitutional sense, to the extent of the damages suffered, even though the title and possession of the owner remain undisturbed."

The question was decided in

*Pumpelly v. Green Bay Co.*, 13 Wallace, 166,

which was an action of trespass on the case originally brought in the United States Circuit Court for the District of Wisconsin. The State Constitution provided that the property of no person should be taken for the public use without just compensation. It appears that the defendant company, for public purposes and acting under a statute, built a dam across the Fox River near the outlet of Lake Winnebago. The result was to raise the waters of the lake and to overflow the land of the plaintiff. The claim was advanced by the defendant company that the damages were such as the state had a right to inflict in improving the navigation of the Fox River, without making any compensation. The court held that the overflow of the land was a taking within the meaning of the Wisconsin constitution. The overflow worked an "almost complete destruction of the value of the land." (Opinion, p. 177.) There were "numerous authorities", said the court (p. 179)

"to sustain the doctrine that a serious interruption to the common and necessary use of property may be, in the language of Mr. Angell, in his work on water-courses (*Angell on Water-Courses*, Sec. 465 a), equivalent to the taking of it, and that under the constitutional provision it is not necessary that the land should be absolutely taken."

On page 177 of the above decision Mr. Justice Miller in delivering the opinion of the court, said:

"It would be a very curious and unsatisfactory result, if in construing a provision of constitutional law, always understood to have been adopted for protection and security to the rights of the individual as against the government, and which has received the commendation of juries, statesmen, and commentators as placing the just principles of common law on that subject beyond the ordinary power of legislation to change or control them, it shall be held that if the government refrains from the absolute conversion of real property to the uses of the public it can destroy its value en-

tirely, can inflict irreparable and permanent injury to any extent, can in effect, subject it to total destruction without making any compensation, because, in the narrowest sense of the word, it is not taken for the public use. Such a construction would pervert the constitutional provision into a restriction upon the rights of the citizen, as those rights stood at the common law, instead of the government, and make it an authority for invasion of private right under the pretext of the public good, which has no warrant in the laws or practice of our ancestors."

Hare, in his work on *American Constitutional Law*, Vol. I, says at page 388:

"The main course of decision accordingly, is that if the beneficial use and enjoyment of property are prevented by actions done under an authority conferred by law, the property is as effectually taken as though the title were condemned."

The case of

*United States v. Lynah*, 188 U. S., 445,

was an action against the United States for compensation for the taking of certain real estate in South Carolina. It appeared that in improving the navigation of the Savannah River the government had built dams which raised the water in the river, backed it up against the embankments, and prevented the drainage of the plaintiff's plantation. By the majority of the court it was held a taking, Brewer, J., who delivered the opinion, saying *inter alia*:

"While the government does not directly proceed to appropriate the title, yet it takes away the use and value; when that is done it is of little consequence in whom the fee may be vested."

In the case of

*Chappell v. United States*, 34 Fed. Rep., 673,

the United States Lighthouse Board by authority of Congress, erected two lighthouses; one in front of the shore of the plaintiff's land, and the other about one mile back, upon land of someone other than the plaintiff. These were range lights to enable vessels to direct their course so as to keep in the Brewerton channel as excavated by the United States. It was requisite that there should be no intervening object between the lighthouses. The land of the plaintiff in respect to which he claimed compensation was between the two lights and was used by him, according to the petition, as a site for buildings for manufacturing purposes. He claimed that the United States has required of him that so much of his land as was within the range between the two lighthouses, and for a space not less than 60 feet in width, should remain unobstructed by buildings, and that he had been prevented by the United States from erecting buildings upon, and from using, that portion of his land and that the United States used it in the manner aforesaid.

The United States contended that the mere passage of light across the plaintiff's land cannot be held to be a use of it; and that, if the plaintiff yielded to the direction of the officers of the Lighthouse Board not to obstruct the line of range, he involuntarily consented to do what the officer could not have required him to do, and had no remedy at law.

On page 671, *Id.*, the Court said in passing upon the demurrer:

"If the erection of the lighthouses, and the establishment of the range beacons, and the restriction placed upon the plaintiff not to erect structures on his own land which would obstruct the range was not done by lawful authority of the United States, then, of course, those who interfered with the plaintiff were wrong-doers and their acts tortious. But this is not the issue raised by the demurrer, or contended in argument. It is not suggested that the beacons were not located and maintained by authority of Congress. It

is not denied, in the petition as amended, that the land is the private property of the plaintiff. It is not denied that the obstruction which would have resulted from the plaintiff building upon his land between the beacons would have defeated the lawful purpose of the United States, and would have endangered the safety of vessels using the channel, which Congress had directed should be deepened, and should be marked by range beacons. These being the facts, it would seem clear that in requiring that the beacons should remain unobstructed, and in requiring that the plaintiff should desist from building on his intervening land, the officers of the Lighthouse Board were doing a lawful and authorized act, and one necessarily involved in the direction of Congress that the Board should erect and maintain the range beacons. It cannot be said, therefore, that their act was tortious. And we think it follows that, if the plaintiff, by submitting to their lawful commands, consented to a restriction upon the free use of his property which entailed damage or loss upon him, there is no obstacle to the jurisdiction of the Court to his recovery."

The gist of the action lies in the fact that the lawful use of the plaintiff's land was incompatible with the purposes of the United States in erecting the beacon lights, and that, therefore, there was a denial to the plaintiff of the right to exercise such lawful rights in building structures upon his land.

After the decision of the court, seemingly yielding to the decision of the circuit court and to avoid the effect thereof, the Lighthouse Board commenced process for the condemnation of the 60-foot strip, and the owner of the land recovered damages before the condemnation jury for such a taking in the sum of \$3,500. The case went to the Supreme Court, and is found in 160 U. S., 499.

*Chappell v. United States*, 160 U. S., 499.

The Chappell case has a very striking resemblance to the case at bar. The range lights are never in use except when a ship is proceeding up the channel. In the present case

the battery may not be said to be in use except when the guns are actually being fired. However, in each case the principal result of the establishment of the respective stations of government utility is to limit the use of the land, to make it useless for the purpose for which it is adapted, and materially to impair its value. Surely, to say that the range lights are only employed when a ship is proceeding up channel is the result of a narrow and technical use of language, which results from a false conception of the substantial facts. In a real sense, both the fort and the light houses may be said to be in use all the time. They must both be ready for instant employment when the occasion arises, and in each case the assertion of the government's dominion over the intervening space is a reality and not a legal fiction or a matter of presumption.

The second case involving the same land and the same title was brought up to the Supreme Court of the United States, in the October Term, 1895. This Court expressly affirms the principle of the case.

*Chappell v. United States*, 160 U. S., 499.

The case before them was a proceeding filed in the United States Court for the District of Maryland for the condemnation of a perpetual easement in a strip of fast land on Hawkins Point, in Arundel county, in the State of Maryland, for the purpose of transmitting rays of light without obstruction, both by day and by night, between two beacon lights, known as Hawkins Point Light and Leading Point Light, theretofore constructed and put into operation by the United States as range lights of the Brewerton channel of the Patapsco river in the State of Maryland. (This was a proceeding separate from the action brought by Chappell reported in 34 Federal.) Chappell demurred to the petition on the ground that it was without authority of law, and was not brought in accordance with the Act of August 1, 1888, c. 728, authorizing the condemnation of land for sites

of public buildings and for other purposes. The District Court overruled the demurrer, and being of the opinion that the condemnation of this easement ought to be had by the United States, and that the question of damages should be submitted to a jury, ordered a trial. The jury brought in a verdict assessing to Chappell damages in the sum of \$3,500 for the enjoyment by the United States, in perpetuity, of the easement aforesaid. 160 U. S., 502. Subsequently, Chappell filed a plea to the jurisdiction of the Court, and, later, exceptions alleging that there was a want of power to condemn the property. 160 U. S., 503. The exceptions were overruled, and subsequently Chappell brought the case to the Supreme Court of the United States on a writ of error.

Mr. Justice Gray delivered the opinion of the Court. He held that no question of jurisdiction having been separately certified, and the writ of error having been allowed without restriction or qualification, the Supreme Court had jurisdiction, nevertheless, this being a case in which the constitutionality of a law of the United States was drawn in question. Having acquired jurisdiction under that heading, the Court would proceed to dispose not merely of the constitutional question but of the entire case, including all questions, whether of jurisdiction or merits. The Court held that the proceedings to condemn the land were constitutional, saying,

"It is now well settled that whenever in the execution of the powers granted to the United States by the Constitution, lands in any State are needed by the United States for a fort, magazine, dock yard, light house, custom house, court house, post office, or any other public purpose, and can not be acquired by agreement with the owners, the Congress of the United States, exercising the right of eminent domain and making just compensation in the Court of the States with its courts, or by proceedings in the Courts of the United States, with or without the consent of the con-

current act of the State as Congress may direct or permit, etc., \* \* \* nor is it necessary that Congress itself shall select the particular land to be taken."

"This proceeding," said the Court, "for the condemnation of *an interest in land for the use and benefit of the United States* for light-house purposes, was instituted in the District Court of the United States by the Secretary of the Treasury, action through the Attorney General of the United States, as authorized by the Act of Congress. Having been commenced in the name of the Secretary of the Treasury, it was rightly ordered to be amended so as to make the United States the claimant as they were really the petitioners. *Kohl vs. United States*, 91 U. S., 367; *United States vs. Jahn*, 155 U. S., 109-111; *United States vs. Hopewell*, 5 U. S. App., 131."

As if this were not enough to indicate that the Supreme Court recognized and expressly approved the doctrine that under the circumstances the land had been taken although there was no physical invasion of it in the material sense, it took the precaution of saying in the last paragraph of the opinion:

"To prevent any possible misconception it is fit to observe that this case concerns only the *taking by the United States* or making compensation to the owner of *an interest in fast land above high-water mark*."

The case of

*Eaton v. B. C. & M. R. R. Co.*, 51 N. H., 504,

was one where a railroad company in constructing its road cut through a ridge some distance north of the plaintiff's land, thereby making it possible for the waters of an adjacent river to flood the plaintiff's land in the time of freshets. Smith, J., in an elaborate opinion held this to be a taking of the plaintiff's property since it deprived him of his right to use and enjoy the same as he saw fit. On page 511 Judge Smith said:

"The vital issue then is whether the injuries complained of amount to a taking of the plaintiff's property within the constitutional meaning of these terms. It might seem that to state such a question is to answer it, but an examination of the authority reveals a decided conflict of opinion. The constitutional prohibition has received in some quarters, a construction which renders it of comparatively little worth, being interpreted much as if it read, 'No person shall be divested of the formal title to property without compensation, but he may without compensation be deprived of all that makes the title valuable.' To constitute a taking of property it seems to have some times been held necessary that there should have been an exclusive appropriation, a total assumption of possession, a complete ouster, etc. These views seem to us to be founded on a misconception of the meaning of the term property. In a strict legal sense land is not property but the subject of property. The term property, although in common parlance is applied to a tract of land or a chattel, in its legal signification means only the rights of the owner in relation to it. \* \* \* Property is the right of any person to use, possess and dispose of a thing. \* \* \* If property and land consists in certain essential rights and a physical interference with the land substantially subverts one of those rights, such interference takes *pro tanto* the owner's property. \* \* \* If the right of indefinite user is an essential element of absolute property or complete ownership, whatever physical interference annuls this right, takes property; although the owner may still have left to him valuable rights (in the article) of a more limited and circumscribed nature, he has not the same property that he formerly had. Then, he had an unlimited right; now, he has only a limited right. His absolute ownership has been reduced to a qualified ownership. Restricting A's unlimited right of using 100 acres of land to a limited right of using the same land, may work a far greater injury to A than to take from him the title and fee simple to one acre, leaving him the unrestricted right of using the remaining 99 acres. No body doubts that the latter transaction would consti-

tute a 'taking of property.' Why not the former?" \* \* \*

"The principle must be the same whether the owner is wholly deprived of the use of his land, or only partially deprived of it; although the amount of the value of the property taken in the two instances may widely differ. If a railroad corporation take a strip four rods wide out of a farm to build their track upon, they cannot escape paying for the strip by the plea that they have not taken the whole farm. So a partial, but substantial, restriction of the right of user may not annihilate all the owner's rights of property in the land, but it is none the less true that a part of his property is taken. Taking a part is as much forbidden by the Constitution as taking the whole. The difference is only one of degree; the *quantum* of interest may vary, but the principle is the same."

The Eaton case has been cited with approval in  
*Grand Rapids Booming Co. v. Jarvis*, 30 Mich., 308,  
 321;  
*Thompson v. Androscoggin Improvement Co.*, 51  
 N. H., 545;

and in numerous other decisions, including

*Peabody v. United States*, 43 C. C., 16.

It was held in

*United States v. Welch*, 217 U. S., 338,

that a right of way over another's land is property, and that when the United States acquires the fee of the land over which the right of way goes, that is a taking of the right of way.

"A private right of way is an easement and is land. We perceive no reason why it should not be held to be acquired by the United States as incident to the fee for which it admits it must pay. But if it were only destroyed and ended, a destruction for a public purpose may as well be a taking as would an appropriation for the same end. *Miller v. Horton*, 152 Mass.,

540, 547. The same reasoning that allows a recovery for the taking of land by permanent occupation allows it for a right of way taken in the same manner, and the value of the easement cannot be ascertained without reference to the dominant estate to which it was attached. The argument is only confused by reference to cases like *Gibson v. United States*, 166 U. S., 269."

The Welch case was followed in

*United States v. Grizzard*, 219 U. S., 180,

which held that the just compensation to be awarded in a case where a part only of claimant's land was flooded, besides the market value of the land flooded, should include damage to the remaining land resulting from such taking. To do otherwise, said the Court, "would be a travesty upon justice."

*Sharp v. United States*, 191 U. S., 311,

is not in conflict. That case went off on the ground that the depreciation in value occurred to a neighboring but distinct tract belonging to the same owner.

Compare

*United States v. Alexander*, 118 U. S., 186,

*Sprague v. Dorr*, 185, Mass., 10, (taking when the State, in the interests of public health, compels an owner to abandon his proscriptive right to pollute a stream).

See also 15 Cyc. 660, note 11; and *Ib.*, pages 661-670 inclusive, and notes.

Without going to the length of the Eaton case we submit that the reasoning and the principle of the Chappell case are logical and sound and were properly upheld by this Court, viz: that where lighthouses have been located so that the zone of light between them extends across the

claimant's land so as to make it impossible for him to erect buildings thereon or to use the land for the purposes for which it is best adapt'd, it deprives the claimant of his property so as to entitle him to compensation. A fortify the construction of the Fort with the batteries installed in preparation for war in time of peace, where the most suitable and only safe field of fire was across the claimant's land, this too prevents his erecting buildings and using his land for the purposes for which it is best adapted and for which he had acquired it, and so deprives him of his property so as to constitute a taking and entitle him to compensation.

## IV

**CLAIMANT'S PROPERTY HAS BEEN TAKEN.**

The Court of Claims has found that the erection of Fort Foster and the installation of the guns therein has materially impaired the value of the claimant's land, because probable guests or the head and lessees or purchasers of the cottages or land will apprehend that the Artillery may fire in time of peace over and across the land, etc. (Finding 1.C.V.) In order to appreciate the grounds for such apprehension it is necessary to consider what occurs on the firing of one of these ten inch guns. The guns of the battery are set up so that in normal firing position their muzzles are 800 feet from claimant's boundary line which runs directly in front of them. The three guns are mounted in line, thus:



and to them claimant's boundary line runs almost parallel. Upon the firing of one of the guns the effect in front and about the mouth of the gun and along the path of the shot, is inexpressibly violent. Turf is ripped up; calm water suddenly and intensely agitated and everything within the

sphere of disturbance is shattered as if by a convulsion of nature. It is not known how near a human being could stand to the path of the projectile. Certainly no sane man would willingly stand within three or four hundred feet of its path. From this one can readily imagine what the effect would be of firing the guns of the battery across the claimant's land.

Can it possibly be said that with this menace constantly threatening the claimants' land, materially and permanently impairing its value, their rights of use, exclusion and disposition have not been so seriously interfered with as to constitute a "taking?"

The claimants' land extends in contemplation of law *usque ad cœlum*.

*Ces. Litt.* 40.

2 Bla. Comm. 18.

1 Kent Comm. 401.

Webb's Pollock on Torts, p. 423;

*Conn. v. Hall*, 11 Conn. 546.

*Hanworth Board of Works v. Tel. Co.*, 13 Q. B. 143, 912.

*Hawkins v. Braund*, 12 Q. B. 239.

*James v. Roberts*, 9 H. & R. 643; 7 H. & R. 625.

Fitzsimon's Inst. Laws Scotland, Books in title 9, sec. 41.

1 American Law Reg. (N. S.) 557.

*Lemmon v. Hobt*, 1 App. Cases (1895), 12.

*Corbett v. Hill*, 1. R. 9 Eng. 671.

After the erection of the battery how much of the claimant's right of user was left? The space above their land was sufficient to use by the Government for the firing of projectiles across it, thereby making it impossible any longer to operate the hotel or to use the land as a seashore resort. Nor indeed could the land be used for any other profitable purpose. Clearly the Government has acquired the claimant's right of user of the space above their land and has

deprived them of its use, thereby destroying the value of the property.

By the installation of the battery the Government has also deprived the claimants of their right of exclusion; for clearly they could not exclude the United States from firing the guns over their property.

These rights of use and exclusion thus acquired by the United States Government so encumber the claimants' property as to make it impossible for them to dispose of it as a summer resort. As found by the Court of Claims it was of little value for any other purpose.

The installation of a battery, the proper and contemplated use of which causes such an interference with the rights of use, exclusion and disposition as to destroy the value of the land for the purpose which it was used, constitutes a taking.

As we have said, the property of the claimants consisted of the rights of user, exclusion and disposition. So far as they are concerned, these rights have been greatly impaired, in fact have become valueless. The Court of Claims has found that this impairment of the value of the property will continue so long as the Fort and artillery therein are maintained (Finding 45). We find the United States in the enjoyment of the greater part of these rights. It is clear therefore, that the United States has taken the claimants' property within the meaning of the Fifth Amendment.

## V.

### THE DECISION OF THE COURT OF CLAIMS IS WRONG.

The Court of Claims based its decision upon the application of the law of Maine, as to boundary lines of contiguous proprietors, as laid down in the case of *Emerson v. Taylor*, 9 Maine, 42, to the case at bar. The Court of Claims states the rules of *Emerson v. Taylor* to be as fol-

lows: to divide flats between adjoining riparian proprietors, draw a base line from one corner, at high-water mark, of each lot to the other, and run a line from each end of this line at right angles to low-water mark. If by reason of the curvature of the shore, the lines diverge or conflict with each other, the gain or loss is to be divided equally between adjoining lot owners by bisecting the angles made by the diverging or conflicting lines.

By applying this rule, the Court of Claims found that the claimants did not own the entire area over which the guns of the battery could be fired, as was claimed by them, but that a narrow section of this area belonged to the United States Government. The Court found that this narrow section of flats was sufficient territory over which to fire the guns of the battery for practice and all other necessary purposes in time of peace. From this finding they arrived at the conclusion that the United States Government only intended to fire the guns over this narrow section, and that therefore there was no taking of the claimants' property simply because on one or two occasions the guns were fired across their land.

The decision can only stand if we assume that the United States Government realized at the time it installed the battery that it owned this area over which the Court found that it could fire in time of peace without shooting over the claimants' land, and that it did not intend to fire over any other land. Such a contention cannot be sustained, for it is inconceivable that the Government could have had any such intention in mind at the time of installing the battery, and that they intended to fire the guns in time of peace only over a narrow and unsuitable field of fire and one where the result of firing would almost surely be attended with disastrous consequences.

## VI.

**THE LINE OF CASES IN THIS COURT IN WHICH IT HAS BEEN HELD THAT THE ACTS COMPLAINED OF DID NOT CONSTITUTE A TAKING WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE FIFTH AMENDMENT ARE CLEARLY DISTINGUISHABLE FROM THE CASE AT BAR.**

This line of cases is best represented by the following:

*Transportation Co. v. Chicago*, 99 U. S., 635; *Gibson v. U. S.*, 166 U. S., 269;

*Serafim v. Wheeler*, 179 U. S., 141;

*Bedford v. U. S.*, 192 U. S., 217;

all of which were relied on by the Government in their brief in the Court of Claims.

*Transportation Company v. City of Chicago*, *supra*, in the first place was not a suit to recover "compensation" for a "taking." The plaintiff was the owner of land at the intersection of La Salle Street and the Chicago River. By authority of the Legislature the City undertook the construction of a tunnel under the river, continuing La Salle Street, and during the construction La Salle Street was closed in front of the plaintiff's property, and a coffer dam in the river prevented access to a wharf of the plaintiff's on the river side of his lot. The loss of access was only temporary, while the work was in progress. The plaintiff contended that the conditions constituted a nuisance, such as gave a common law action. The Court held that the work having been done by Legislative authority could not be a nuisance. It was then pointed out that whether the ownership of the street was in the plaintiff or the defendant, in either event the ownership was subject to the paramount servitude or easement of the public, the conclusion being that any lawful exercise of this right could effect no damage for which recovery could be had, for the reason

that the damage was merely incidental or consequential, there being no direct encroachment upon the private property. The same reasoning was applied to the contention as to the wharf, the private riparian ownership being likewise subject to the servitude of the State in the river.

*Gibson v. U. S., supra*, was a case of a riparian owner whose landing on the Ohio River was deprived of its usefulness, by the results following the construction by the United States in the river of a dike for the purpose of improving navigation. The dike modified the course of the channel. This case was held against the claimant solely upon the ground that the riparian ownership was subject to the easement or servitude in respect to navigation which was in the United States by virtue of the Federal Constitution, and that damages resulting from the exercise of this right were necessarily indirect and consequential.

The Court's attention is called to the latter part of the opinion where on page 270 the following language is used:

"...Moreover, riparian ownership is subject to the obligation to suffer the consequences of the improvement of navigation in the exercise of the dominant right of the Government in that regard. The Legislative authority over those works consisted simply in an appropriation for their construction, but this was the assertion of a right belonging to the Government, to which the riparian property was subject, and not of a right to appropriate private property not burdened with such a servitude for public purposes."

*Sanderson v. Oliver, supra*, was a case in which the United States, for the purpose of improving navigation, constructed a pier in a river upon submerged land title to which was under the State law, in the plaintiff. The pier cut off the plaintiff's access to the channel. Here again the decision, which was against the plaintiff, was based upon the ground that the ownership of the plaintiff was subject to the right of servitude in favor of the United





**THE CLAIMANTS' PROPERTY HAS BEEN TAKEN: THE UNITED STATES HAS TAKEN TITLE TO THE WHOLE OF THE CLAIMANTS' PROPERTY COMMANDED BY THE GUNS BY ACQUIRING THE VALUE THEREOF AND ASSUMING DOMINION THEREOF IN PERPETUO.**

"Use is the real side of property."

"If, therefore, another acquire such an interest in my land as deprives me of the whole value, it makes little difference in whom the fee is vested." So remarked Mr. Justice Brewer in *United States v. Lynde*.

Lord Coke says:

"So if a man grant to another to dig turves in his land and to carry them at his will and pleasure, the land shall not passe; because but part of the profit is given for trees, mines, etc., shall not passe; but if a man seized of lands in fee by his deed granteth to another the profit of those lands to have and to hold to him and his heirs, and maketh the livery *secundum formam doni*, the whole land itself doth passe; for what is the land but the profits thereof: for thereby vesture, herbage, trees, mines and all whatsoever parts of that land doth passe."

Co. Litt., 4b.

The findings show that the land was of little value except as a summer resort, and that it can no longer be used as a summer resort.

"Shylock announces the essence of the doctrine under discussion when, after he has been deprived of his property by the judgment of the court, he says:

'You take my house, when you do take the prop  
That doth sustain my house; you take my life  
When you do take the means whereby I live!'

Court of Claims, per BARNEY, J., in *Peabody v. United States*, 43 C. C., 18.

## SUMMARY.

The United States has established a battery behind the claimants' seaside property and has fired over it, and must continue to do so in order to use the battery (Statement of Facts; Argument I, II).

The word "Property" as used in the Fifth Amendment embraces all valuable rights in relation to land. The word "Taken" includes any permanent restriction on the use of land involving any material impairment of its value. Property is taken when the land is flooded; or a right of way over another's land is cut off; or a ray of light is passed over land by a permanent installation (III).

In the present case, the firing of the guns over claimant's land having restricted permanently its use, and having destroyed its value, the property has been taken (IV).

The decision of the Court of Claims is wrong (V).

This is not a case of loss of access, nor a case where the land was subject to a servitude in favor of the United States; nor a case where the damage was consequential (VI).

It is a case where upon the firing of the guns the United States took the valuable use of the land and thereby virtually, though not formally, has appropriated the title as well (VII).

We respectfully submit that the judgment of the Court of Claims should be reversed.

JOHN LOWELL,  
WILLIAM FRYE WHITE,  
CHAVANCEY HACKETT,  
for

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INSTITUTION, SAMUEL ELLERY JENNISON and  
THE PORTSMOUTH HARBOR LAND AND HOTEL  
COMPANY, *Appellants*